



December 13, 2012

# PORT OF BELLINGHAM

*Washington State*

Dear Blaine Boathouse Owner:

The Port's Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) has been busy over the past year discussing fire related policy issues that have come into question resulting from the Squalicum Harbor G-East Boathouse fire on March 30, 2012. Many of these discussions have been centered on the new fire ordinance recently adopted by the Bellingham City Council which will affect boathouses in Bellingham. Part of this new fire ordinance requires the Port to increase the capacity of the standpipe at Gate 3 at Squalicum Harbor. To meet these requirements, the Port Commission authorized Port staff to begin design for these improvements which is currently underway. In addition, the Squalicum Harbor boathouse owners are required to make safety improvements, over a specified amount of time, to the existing boathouse structures in Bellingham.

While the City of Bellingham ordinance does not affect the boathouses in Blaine, there is a draft boathouse policy currently being proposed that may affect the boathouses in Blaine. In the aftermath of the fire, legal issues relating to the boathouse fire prompted the Port to look at revising the marinas' Rules, Regulations, and Procedures for boathouses. This issue was discussed at the last Marina Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting in November 2012 which recommended the formation of a sub-committee tasked with reviewing this issue further before any recommendations are made to the Port Commission.

Several boathouse owners at the meeting volunteered to participate on the sub-committee and work over the next several months to develop a recommendation to take back to the full-body MAC. The sub-committee representatives are:

- Doug Sterrett, Marina Advisory Committee representative
- Bob Tull, Squalicum Harbor Boathouse owner
- Ken Culver, Squalicum Harbor Boathouse owner
- Bill Dodge, Squalicum Harbor Boathouse owner
- Port Staff

The first sub-committee meeting was held on November 30, 2012 to lay the groundwork for future discussions. The next meeting will be held at 11am on January 7, 2013 at the Port's administration office located at 1801 Roeder Ave. You are welcome to attend.

We will keep you informed as these discussions move forward and if you would like to submit comments, you can send those to [pamt@portofbellingham.com](mailto:pamt@portofbellingham.com).

Sincerely,

  
Pam Taft  
Special Projects Administrator

cc: Dan Stahl  
Andy Peterson