

BOARD OF FINANCE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 16, 2018  
MINUTES

Present: J. Olsen, J. Scully Welch, L. Santos, M. Smith, D. Onofrio, D. Traynor, O. NejdI and K. Carr

J. Olsen called the public hearing to order at 7:00 PM in the Auditorium of the Town Hall.

The Board of Education and Town budget failed to pass at the May 9, 2018 referendum. Olsen opened up the public hearing for comments.

Tom Welch, 101 Grove Street, spoke in favor of restoring the funding for the pump out boat.

Catherine Staunton, 102 Pratt Road, spoke in favor of the school budget and asked for no further cuts. Catherine read a letter from Mary Jo Phelps. A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes.

Ronald Edelstein, 36 Hammock Road, spoke about the budget process.

Maribeth Breen read a letter to the board from David Reynolds, Henry Carter Hull Library Board Treasurer. A copy of the letter will be attached to the minutes.

Annaliese Spaziano, 37 Ben Merrill Road, spoke in favor of restoring the funding for the pump out boat and asked for no further cuts to the education budget.

Connie Warner, 10 Watrous Road, asked for no further cuts to the education budget.

Laura Peterson, 6 Whitewood Road, spoke on behalf of Matt Kennedy, Chairman of the Water Pollution Control Commission. A copy of his email will be attached to the minutes.

Andrea Reu, 78 Waterside Lane, supported both budgets and asked for no further cuts.

Laura Colebank, 8 Fernwood Lane, supported both budgets and asked for no further cuts.

Marie Morah, 64 Long Hill Road, asked for no further cuts to the education budget.

Bethany Knight, 88 Airline Road, spoke in support of the budget and asked the board to take a more creative look at revenue.

Erica Gelvin, Board of Education Chairman, spoke on the education budget.

The public hearing was closed at 7:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Schettino

Administrative Assistant

Town of Clinton  
Board of Finance  
John Olsen, Chairman of the Board

Dear John,

The Henry Carter Hull Library Board of Trustees would like to extend a note of appreciation to you and your board during these difficult times. We would also like to take a minute to clarify some of the misinformation regarding the library's finances.

The Henry Carter Hull Library is the sole benefactor of the Arabella Meigs Hull Trust. The 1.2 million dollar trust is managed and controlled by Essex Savings Bank as Trustee and we currently receive approximately 6% annually or \$6,000 a month from the income of the Trust. We have no authority to invade principal nor to demand a larger distribution of income which is subject to the exclusive discretion of the Trustee.

In addition to this income the library has roughly \$627,000 in accumulated donations that were intended for improvements to the operations and services of the library above and beyond the basic funding provided by the Town of Clinton. We also have a donor restricted \$88,000 to be used solely for children's room programs, equipment and events.

Through additional prudent budgeting and operational reductions, the Henry Carter Hull Library Board of Trustees believes it is capable of absorbing a \$10,000 reduction in requested town funds for the 18-19 fiscal year.

Please remember that the library budget is already \$8,900 less than what we believed we need to operate in the town's best interest. Our previous \$746,000 Board of Selectman and Board of Finance approved budget for 18-19 is flat funded from the current fiscal year. This cut would represent an almost \$20,000 funding cut to the true operating budget for 18-19.

Also note that the Library budget has always been low on administrative services and places public service in the forefront of budgetary funding.

Best,

David Reynolds, CPA, CFE  
Henry Carter Hull Library Board Treasurer

To the Board of Finance:

About a week and a half ago, I was out talking to Clinton taxpayers at our beautiful playing fields in town. I was having a conversation with a Dad watching his daughter's softball game, and he was saying how people don't understand how important it is to invest in Clinton's infrastructure to attract new families and businesses. Another gentleman standing nearby said, "Wait, people think the taxes are high here? That's why we moved here, because your taxes are so low". Now, I didn't catch what town he moved here from, but it could have been any of the 86 towns that has a higher mill rate than ours. That's right: according to an article on patch.com, Clinton has the 87th highest mill rate in the state of Connecticut. Combine that with our more affordable home prices (not to mention our wonderful quality of life), and Clinton is one of the best bargains in Connecticut.

I urge voters to do their part to keep Clinton the wonderful town it is, and vote yes on both budgets next Wednesday, May 23rd.

Mary Jo Phelps

23 Delwood Avenue

Clinton

<https://patch.com/connecticut/fairfield/connecticut-property-taxes-every-town-who-pays-most>

## Mary Schettino

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**From:** Kris Shapiro <kris@cedarlandmarina.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 2:07 PM  
**To:** G-FinanceBoard  
**Cc:** G-Selectmen  
**Subject:** Email for Tonight's Public Hearing Regarding Pumpout Boat

Dear Clinton Board of Finance,

I would ask that you reconsider adding the \$7,000 to the pumpout program in. I have copied below a correspondence between Mr. Olsen, Mr. Carr, and I last year that highlights both sides of the issue in regards to why we are asking for funding and why we feel that the Town should have a duty and responsibility to help partially fund it. I have intentionally included both sides of the debate.

I would like to address Mr. Olsen's position in the BOF meeting on 5/14/18 that we are just "multi-millionaires that appealed our taxes" (thank you Kirk for the videoing). The Town's appraisal of our property had a clerical error where they counted the value of our docks TWICE resulting in an increase of around \$3 million dollars to our appraised value in a time where business was worse than ever. Once this ERROR was corrected we immediately settled our appeal. I think Mr. Olsen knows this, but enjoys using any chance to slander us that is possible because he is upset that we may build residential housing in the future that blocks his waterfront view at his house. Regardless of Mr. Olsen's personal feelings about us, I would hope that you would consider having enough respect for us to try to have an objective opinion about this issue and I do feel very bad for all of you for having to put up with his bullying that I witnessed in the video.

I thank you all for the consideration and we appreciate your volunteer efforts to pass a reasonable budget – you all help make this town what it is.

Kirk Carr <[kirk.carr@gmail.com](mailto:kirk.carr@gmail.com)>

to Al, Felgate, Annaliese, wayne.church, stevehayes, Kris, John, John

Amigos:

As you may know, Clinton's Board of Finance voted to eliminate \$7,000 in funding for the pump-out boat at Cedar Island Marina. Full disclosure, I was one of the board members voting to cut these funds.

Not because I oppose a pump-out boat or clean water. I just believe there is a better way to fund this and other clean water initiatives.

To do so we need a 501 (c) (3) dedicated to keeping Clinton Harbor clean that relies on state grants, voluntary contributions and then, if there is still a gap, on town funding.

There are [Waterkeeper organizations](#) all over the world, including the [Long Island Soundkeeper](#). So we don't have to entirely reinvent this.

Are you interested in participating in this initiative or one like it? Do you know others who might also be interested?

Kris Shapiro <[kris@cedarlandmarina.com](mailto:kris@cedarlandmarina.com)>

to G-Selectmen, G-FinanceBoard, Mary, Kirk, Al, Felgate, Annaliese, wayne.church, stevehayes, Kris,

Hi Kirk,

Thank you for your email following up on the removal of our funding by the Board of Finance. As you learned last year when you and Jack went to the pump out operator meeting hosted by D.E.E.P., we run one of the most cost effective programs in the state.

In addition, if you recall, more than half of the organizations at that meeting were municipalities that run the program IN FULL. Most municipalities contribute at least partially to the running of pump out boats and the amount of money we request from Clinton is not large compared to the overall costs of the program.

501(c)(3) pump out organizations have historically and currently cost the program substantially more than having a municipality or private organization in charge of operations. The reason for us being able to do this so cheap is a lot of the overhead and labor are already incorporated into our costs. Coastal Environmental Services (a 501(c)(3)) ran the pump out program in Clinton the first year. They asked for so much money they were not funded by D.E.E.P. for the second year and we had to take over. It was close to 2x what we ask for and still over 1.5x with Clinton's past donations.

In regards to SoundKeeper, their expenses are higher than ours. They do not and I believe are incapable of running the program as efficiently as us. With that said if they or any other 501(c)(3) was interested in administering the program, we would certainly support it. You do remember though that last year when you introduced us to the operator of SoundKeeper, he had no interest in operating a program in Clinton right? Jack was there too.

Though I strongly disagree with you, I do respect your opinion and I very much appreciate the fact you have taken an interest in trying to make this work. What upsets me is that you guys pulled this funding without any notice and now we are left covering the \$7,000 this year as we are already in contract with D.E.E.P. This is in addition to the substantial money and in-kind services we already contribute.

If the Town really thinks the right move is to defund this, which I completely disagree with, the honorable thing would be to fund it this year since we already are in contract, but then state it will not be funded again so we have time to plan something else or at least have the option to discontinue the program if we can not make the finances work. Even if a 501(c)(3) is formed, it would not be in time and the funding date for D.E.E.P. has already passed. Leaving one of your biggest taxpayer's with this bill that you have funded in the past is not right.

Clinton is always open to competitive bidding to get funding with D.E.E.P. we do not have an exclusive contract. No other party has had any interest since Coastal Environmental Services was refused funding by D.E.E.P. We would support a 501(c)(3) as much as we could, as we did with Coastal Environmental Services, but we have no interest in forming one when we can run it more efficiently ourselves and the operator of SoundKeeper was not interested.

I did CC the Board's of Selectman and Finance on this as I think it is very germane to the overall discussion of this program.

Folks-

Clinton property taxes will increase 12% this year based on current budgeted expenditures due in part to threatened State cuts in aid to Clinton.

Property taxes are very regressive and fall disproportionately on low and middle income households.

Boats are exempt from property taxes but manufactured homes are not. And the Town does not pay to pump-out trailer parks' septics.

I am a big supporter of clean water in Clinton Harbor, but there are fairer ways to pay for the pump-out boat than paying for it with highly regressive property taxes.

I am volunteering to help raise the needed funds to fill the small gap and perhaps appeal for ample contributions to do much more for clean water in Clinton Harbor. Anybody want to help? Or does everyone prefer to complain?

**Janeen Olsen <[jolsen8980@att.net](mailto:jolsen8980@att.net)>**

to me, Kirk, G-FinanceBoard, Mary, G-Selectmen, afelgate, aspaziano, john.allen.wal., john, jva315, stevehayes, wayne.church, Leah, scullywel

Mr. Shapiro,

I received a copy of your letter regarding the pump out boat. It would be helpful if you could provide some additional information.

1. Please provide the names of the marinas and the boat names that you serviced last season that are not in Cedar Island Marina.
2. Please provide the number of times each of these boats had been pumped, and the total number of gallons that were pumped. (This, again, is not including the gallons from your own private marina.)

I am very concerned that the State of Connecticut is experiencing major budget problems. This could possibly be where the cuts would come from in DEEP.

The town of Clinton is also experiencing many fiscal challenges which make our decisions difficult, **such as cutting postage from different town departments!**

Thanking you in advance ,  
John Olsen

**Kris Shapiro <[kris@cedarilandmarina.com](mailto:kris@cedarilandmarina.com)>**

to **Jeffrey**, Janeen, Kirk, G-FinanceBoard, Mary, G-Selectmen, Felgate, Walker, John, John, stevehayes,

Mr Olsen,

Thank you for taking the time to consider information regarding our request for the funding of the Clinton Harbor Pumpout Boat Program. At the bottom of this email is a copy of the log summary that gives a breakdown of each marina. I am away until April 1 and the over 30 page physical logs of 2016 that gives a breakdown by each pumpout by: time, slip #, marina, and gallons is at the marina. If this is insufficient, we can go over the specific logs when I return. While we log each slip #, I do not have a breakdown of overall totals for each slip, we would have to manually add that. You are welcome to take a look when I get back.

With that said, I do believe that the table I have provided illustrates the point you were trying to make, which is that the overwhelming majority of pumpouts happen at our marina. Knowing that and having known that, I still strongly believe that the Town does have a responsibility and a duty to partially support this program.

To start off, I would like to address Kirk's discussion about manufactured trailers because I think it very much helps to educate on the difference. Manufactured trailers or any other residential waste requires that a septic company, which charges money and makes a profit, pump the waste. In our case we are not allowed to charge. We must provide the service for free to all boaters in the harbor.

We have provided and will always continue to provide the service of free waste pumping at our fuel dock. The costs are minor compared to operating the boat; besides some small maintenance, the only large cost is getting our in-ground tank pumped when it's filled. We have never asked the Town for help funding this. Running the pump out boat is a different story. Some large extra costs associated with this: insurance, fuel, training, labor (1 or 2 employees at a time + administrative support), supplies, purchasing of the boat, maintenance of the boat/engines, slip, winter storage, shrink wrap, etc. Because of the large costs, because it has to be free of charge, and because water quality is an incredibly important public goal, almost every municipality in the state has decided to assist either fully funding the program and run it themselves or partially fund it.

D.E.E.P. provides 75% of this funding (as long as you provide the service for free), the remaining 25% is left up to whoever operates it. In your email you state that D.E.E.P. has cut funding, but it has not. The program is funded by the federal government (U.S. Fish & Wildlife), D.E.E.P. just oversees it in CT. Clinton has only had this program for 3 years. As stated in my last email, the first year a 501(c)(3) ran the Clinton program. When they tried to apply again they demanded a ton of funding and were denied. They demanded at least \$20,000 from the Town of Clinton in order to "make it work" though they were hoping Clinton would pick up the whole tab. After multiple meetings between them, D.E.E.P., the town, the health department, and us, Willie agreed to ask for \$7,000. That is where the number came from. When they were rejected in their requests by both the state and the town, we were asked to step in as we could run it a lot more efficiently than them. The promise of this support was one of the reasons we agreed to take this on.

In order to give you more clarity on why this is so important to the public and not just the boaters, let me explain what was happening in Clinton and the rest of the country/world before pumpout boats. Many boaters have waste tanks and many of them either have boats that do not run (they are towed to the slip in the spring). A lot of boaters just use their boats as a waterfront cottage and are incapable of making it to the fixed pump station. Other people are just lazy. What often happens is at weird hours when no one is watching many people will hit a switch, which dumps their waste into the water. Almost all boats have this switch called a macerator pump, which comes with the boats because dumping 3mi offshore is legal. As the waste is dumped into the water it travels out the channel with the current and I am sure some gets washed ashore on the Town Beach, which is pretty gross. I believe the Town Beach, before the pumpout boat program, was ranked one of the dirtiest in the state because of its location downriver.

This happens everywhere and it is impossible to enforce. However, almost all will opt to not dump overboard when provided with a free pump out boat service (I believe this is why the "free incentive" is mandated under contract to incentivize people not to dump). No one wants to dump illegally into the river, but without the boat, many will in order to be able to use their bathrooms. **Because of this, running a pump out boat goes way beyond just providing a service to boaters, it addresses a larger public concern and a public issue.** The costs to run it are prohibitive and it is unfair for even the largest marina in Clinton to have to shoulder all of it. As stated in the letter Jane read to you (I don't have the exact info in front of me because I am away) we do contribute over \$5,000 and an additional over \$5,000 of in-kind services on top of taking on this responsibility that in many towns the municipality takes on in full.

Clinton marinas contribute over \$300,000 in taxes per year to the Town (not sure of the exact number, but we pay ½ of that so I am assuming cumulatively the rest is over that) and have never asked for Town support like this in our 43 years here. This is not a profit center; at best it helps us cover some of the costs. While I will not try to tell you how to do it or pretend that it is easy, I do believe that you can find somewhere to allocate \$7,000 out of the money that we all give the Town.

I would be happy to have further discussions, provide more info, and meet with you to go over the specific logs. I ask at minimum if the Town does not want to fund this program that it at least fund it this year and then we can abandon it the following year when we won't get stuck with the bill. I greatly appreciate the effort you guys put in to create an acceptable budget and I understand that with cut backs it has become increasingly hard. I do strongly believe that what we have asked for is fair and reasonable and I hope that you and the rest of the Board of Finance will reevaluate your stance after the justification, history, and explanations that I have provided.

### LOG SUMMARY

5/21/16 – 11/6/16

<u>Marina</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Cedar Island Marina	20,970	80.09
Riverside Basin Marina	170	.7
Clinton Yacht Haven	2,930	11.3
Port Clinton	975	3.8
Old Harbor	825	3.2
Boat Center	65	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,935</b>	<b>100</b>

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Sincerely,

**Kris**

Kristopher Shapiro  
General Manager

Cedar Island Marina  
34 Riverside Dr  
Clinton, CT 06413

[www.cedarislandmarina.com](http://www.cedarislandmarina.com)

 [www.facebook.com/CedarIslandMarina](https://www.facebook.com/CedarIslandMarina)

Phone: [\(860\)-669-8681](tel:(860)669-8681) Ext. 10

Fax: [\(860\)-669-4157](tel:(860)669-4157)



## Mary Schettino

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**From:** Mary Schettino  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 3:36 PM  
**To:** G-Selectmen; G-FinanceBoard  
**Subject:** FW: WPCC Comments on the BoS Special Meeting and BoF meeting of 05-14-18  
**Attachments:** 2016-2017 - Clinton Harbor Pumpout Program Statistics.pdf; Clinton Pumpout Boat - Feb 2016 Letter from Cedar Island Marina.pdf; CTDEEP CVA - Boat Waste Problem & Pump out Programs - 05-15-18.pdf; CTDEEP Email - Clinton Harbor Pump out Boat Usage - 2017 Season - 05-15-18.pdf; Email from CTDEEP to Al Walker - Shellfish Commission - Pump-out Boat - 03-22-16.pdf

**From:** Matthew Kennedy [mailto:mkenedy.clintonctwpcc@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 16, 2018 2:37 PM  
**To:** Mary Schettino <MSchettino@clintonct.org>; Christine Goupil <cgoupil@clintonct.org>  
**Cc:** Carol Walter <CWalter@clintonct.org>; Laura Peterson <laura@abc3i.com>; Al Walker <john.allen.walker@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** WPCC Comments on the BoS Special Meeting and BoF meeting of 05-14-18

Hello all,

As you may know I just had surgery and was not able to attend the BoS and BoF meetings on Monday, and will not be able to attend this evening's BoF public hearing on the Town Budget. As such, I respectfully request that this email be read into the minutes of the public hearing and that the email and attached documents be provided to the BoS and BoF members in advance of tonight's BoF public hearing and meeting.

First, I thank each of you for your hard work and for the effort you put into handling the difficult decisions we face as a Town. After reading the meeting minutes and discussing the matters with several in attendance, I have several concerns regarding the decisions made by the Boards since the last referendum. I believe that additional discussion is necessary to ensure that these decisions do not inadvertently undermine the effort and financial investment that the Town has made in it's efforts to improve water quality for the recreation of its families and residents, as well those to enhance Clinton's image as a great place to spend time on boats and beaches during the summer, and the associated benefits to local commerce that results from these activities.

### First Item: Legal Fees, Staffing & Engineering Support

The meeting minutes indicate under the heading WPCC that a motion was approved 3-1-1 to "move all legal fees from each of the budgets to General Government" and that \$5,000 reduced from the WPCC's Professional Services line item. I believe it requires clarification that the line item previously listed in prior WPCC budgets as "Legal" has already been removed, and that the "Professional Services" line item now refers primarily to the consultant engineering support costs of the WPCC's engineer CDM Smith. These are non-capital project related, engineering support costs that the WPCC has found necessary in order to function as a technical department. Details were provided at the beginning of budget season. While we will be able to function with the proposed \$5,000 cut to Professional Services, I wanted to make sure that it was clear that none of the remaining budget should be moved to General Government as it will be necessary for engineering support. As a mostly volunteer Department with are large amount of responsibility, we rely heavily on the efforts of our full-time clerk and these professional engineering support services in order to operate and administer the septic tank

pumpout ordinance and respond to the other regulatory Orders and State requests for information associated with state-mandated facilities planning, private septic systems, DPH-regulated septic systems, CTDEEP-regulated septic systems, the drinking water, groundwater and surface water in the area of the former Town landfill, and the sampling and efforts to close the former Town septage lagoons.

## Second Item: Pump out Boat

My understanding is that on Monday the BoS moved the line item for the Town's \$7,000 annual contribution to the Clinton Harbor Pump out Program that is administered by Cedar Island Marina from general government to the operating budget of the WPCC, of which I am Chairman. The board apparently then voted to eliminate the funding by a vote of 3-1. My general thoughts are that the WPCC should have the opportunity to evaluate the value of this service as part of our annual objectives and budgeting. As a CT Licensed Environmental Professional (LEP) I am ethically and legally required to make decisions both professionally and personally that are protective of human health and the environment. Since I was not afforded that opportunity in this case, I am not comfortable with this being moved to our purview and then cut from our budget. We have discussed the commission's support of the pump out program in previous years and I feel it bears updating.

I suppose the crux of our argument is thus: While the town of Clinton is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to design and complete projects to better handle our wastewater, protect our stormwater and surface water, close-out our out-of-use septage lagoons, reestablish our oyster beds, and provide safe drinking water to an area in town where unsafe drinking water is threatened by the presence of septic systems, it would seem almost ridiculous that we would not take a proactive approach to not only maintain this program, but to ultimately expand the program over time to protect our waters. Many other shoreline towns have taken this step and fully fund the program (at significant expense).

Here is a quote from the CTDEEP website that I think every member of the Board of Selectman and Board of Finance should read: "**Scientists have shown there is more bacteria in the untreated waste discharged by one boat than in the treated waste water discharged by a small city.**" We should all be shocked by this and be compelled to take measures to protect our waters.

As WPCC chairman and an environmental scientist, I've completed research into the Clinton Harbor Pump out Program and I am generally impressed with the return on investment that we are receiving. Attached are items of correspondence from the State of Connecticut and Kris Shapiro of Cedar Island Marina concerning the operation and funding of this program. It appears that the customers and visitors of each of the marinas/docks in Town are receiving a federally subsidized service meant to curb incidental, accidental, and illegal discharges of concentrated marine head wastes into our harbor and beach areas where our families and guests to our town swim, fish, and kayak (and hopefully soon will be allowed to recreational harvest shellfish). If you review the attached documents you will see that Clinton is being asked to share in funding a very small fraction of the approximately \$50,000/yr that is costs to operate the program. Keeping marine head waste out of our waters is a Town issue that is near impossible to adequately police. The current program as administered by the current operators, removes many of the variables that we are unequipped to handle and accomplishes more to improve our water quality and keep our beaches open than probably any other actions we take as a community. I strongly recommend that this funding be restored prior to sending the Town budget to referendum. If the Town is not convinced that it wishes to continue with this service long term, then I recommend that it be funded for fiscal year 2018/2019 and that a subcommittee be formed to explore other options. Thanks for your consideration of this request. Please see the attached supporting documentation.

-Matt

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*Matthew P. Kennedy, LEP*  
*Chairman, Town of Clinton WPCC*

# *Cedar Island Marina*<sup>®</sup>

"The Family Boating Resort"

## LOG SUMMARY

5/13/17 - 11/11/17

<u>Marina</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Cedar Island Marina	17,655	77.22
Riverside Basin Marina	260	1.14
Clinton Yacht Haven	2,835	12.40
Port Clinton	875	3.83
Old Harbor	795	3.48
Boat Center	445	1.95
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,875</b>	<b>100</b>

## LOG SUMMARY

(Last year's for reference)

5/21/16 - 11/6/16

<u>Marina</u>	<u>Gallons</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
Cedar Island Marina	20,970	80.09
Riverside Basin Marina	170	.7
Clinton Yacht Haven	2,930	11.3
Port Clinton	975	3.8
Old Harbor	825	3.2
Boat Center	65	.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,935</b>	<b>100</b>

# *Cedar Island Marina Inc.*®

"THE FAMILY BOATING RESORT"

P.O. BOX 181 CLINTON, CT 06413 860-669-8681 FAX 860-669-4157

Thursday, February 18, 2016

Dear First Selectman Farmer / Board of Selectman / Clinton Board of Finance:

My name is Kris Shapiro and I am the General Manager at Cedar Island Marina. My family has owned Cedar Island Marina for over 40 years. I am writing to you regarding the Clinton Harbor Pumpout Program, which we were asked to administer by D.E.E.P. last year after the only other contractor interested dropped out. To fulfill our obligations to this program we must provide a specialized pumpout boat, maintain it, store it, fuel it, and staff it. We must provide service to all (of the) the marine facilities in the Town of Clinton for free, including the boats in the Town Marina, and at the town mooring stakes.

D.E.E.P. reimburses 75% of the costs, the remaining 25% rests on the operator. Since this is run as a non-profit and is a benefit to not only the boaters, but the town, it is expected that most of the remaining 25% will be in the form of donations. Last year, out of the approximately \$12,000 that we owed, the Town was able to donate \$7,000. Clinton Yacht Haven donated another \$1,000 and we paid the rest. In addition we donated over \$8,000 in in-kind services. D.E.E.P. conducts a thorough audit of all expenses submitted.

We are writing to you to both educate you about why there was \$7,000 in the Town's budget for "Pump Out Boat" last year and to ask you to please support keeping it in for this year. I would like to explain below as to why this is partially a Town issue.

Each boat has a holding tank for their septic, which has to be pumped out based on how much the boat is used. For those heavily using their boats, they may need it pumped out as much as once per week. Before the pumpout boat the only way to pumpout the boat was to start it up and go to either our fuel dock or Clinton Yacht Haven's. Unfortunately, many people are either too lazy to do that or they have boats that are incapable of it. In the past ten years we have seen a huge change in our customers from those that use their boats often to people that just use it as a waterfront cottage that keep their engines winterized. Because of this many boats are incapable of getting to a fixed dock pumpout facility.

What used to happen when most of these boaters had full tanks is that they pump their waste into the water. They use a pump designed to pump waste overboard, which should only be used when a boat is many miles out to sea. There is no way to really enforce this as people will dump at odd hours and it is hard to pinpoint which boats do it. We do not support this. If we see a violation we will report it. We also try to post material around our marina and educate people as to how bad for the local environment dumping waste is, but it is something that is out of our control. However, the

pumpout boat has almost eliminated this issue because people can easily and efficiently get their septic tank pumped for free at their own slip.

We believe that besides there being a lack of a sewer system in town that boaters dumping waste was a contributing factor to Clinton having the dirtiest beach in Connecticut in 2013<sup>1</sup> (the year before there was a pumpout boat). The previous Board of Selectman and Board of Finance understood that this issue affects not only the boaters, but the many Town residents that swim in the waterways of Clinton and those that enjoy the Clinton Town Beach. Many other towns understand the public benefit the pumpout boat provides, which is why many of them support their local pump out boat programs in the same way that we asked Clinton to. A few examples of local towns are Branford, Niantic, and Mystic that partially (or totally) cover the remaining costs of their own pump out boat programs.

Since we run this free program for the benefit of everyone (marinas, public beaches, kayakers, swimmers, waterfront neighborhoods) – in a time when our own business is struggling – we hope that the Town will remain supportive and continue to help us with some of its cost.

Sincerely,



Kristopher Shapiro  
General Manager  
860-669-8681 Ext. 10  
[cedarislandmarina@gmail.com](mailto:cedarislandmarina@gmail.com)

cc: Clinton Shellfish Commission

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.nrdc.org/water/oceans/ttw/ct.asp?loc=06413> Note: go down to the chart and sort by "% of samples exceeding BAV". You will see Clinton Town Beach is the highest.

## Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection Clean Vessel Act Frequently Asked Questions

- [Is discharge of boat waste a problem?](#)
- [What is the law regarding boat waste discharge in Long Island Sound?](#)
- [What is the Clean Vessel Act?](#)
- [How can boaters prevent waste discharges in LIS?](#)
- [Why should you act now to comply with this law?](#)
- [What system should you install?](#)

### Is discharge of boat waste a problem?

Most of the areas where boats congregate—harbors, anchorage's, and marinas, are naturally sheltered and semi-enclosed. That means these sheltered areas also are not flushed as well as more open waters. The end result is that most pollution that we put there ends up staying there. Bacteria, chemicals, and nutrients contained in human waste from boats can overload small, poorly flushed waterways and cause local water quality problems. Disease carrying bacteria, viruses and protozoa can enter LIS through the direct discharge of boat waste. Direct threats to human health can arise through ingestion of contaminated water or consumption of fish or shellfish which have ingested these pathogens. **Scientists have shown there is more bacteria in the untreated waste discharged by one boat than in the treated waste water discharged by a small city.**

### What is the Law regarding boat discharges in LIS?

All of Connecticut's waters extending from the Rhode Island state boundary in the Pawcatuck River to the New York state boundary in the Byram River and the shore out to the New York state boundary are designated as No Discharge Areas (NDAs). Discharge of treated or untreated sewage from any vessel is prohibited. These NDAs have been approved by the EPA and included in the Federal Clean Water Act under Section 312(f)(3).

### What is the Clean Vessel Act?

Congress passed the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) in 1992 after finding that there were an inadequate number of onshore sewage disposal facilities in waters frequented by recreational boats and determining that these vessels may be contributing substantially to localized degradation of water quality. The primary goal of the CVA is to reduce overboard sewage discharge from recreational boats. The CVA provides funds to states for the construction, renovation, operation, and maintenance of pumpout stations for holding tanks and dump stations for portable toilets. Connecticut has an active program to utilize these federal funds to facilitate low cost convenient pumpouts and dump stations.

Under the Clean Vessel Act, \$40 million has been distributed to the states over the five-year period between 1993 and 1997. Connecticut's program has successfully competed for over \$1.6 million of the available funds. This is a users pay, users benefit program, where anglers and boaters provide the financial support for fisheries management, boating access and related projects including the CVA pumpout program. These funds come from taxes paid on fishing tackle and motor-boat fuels under the Federal Aid in Sport Fishing Restoration Program.

The Clean Vessel Act was reauthorized by Congress in 1998 and funded under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA 21). CVA continues to be funded through the Sports Fish and Boating Trust Fund which is part of the Federal Highway Trust Fund.

As a result of the CVA, boaters can rely on convenient and free pumpout facilities, dump stations, and cleaner waters, resulting in healthier fish and shellfish populations in Long Island Sound and across the country.

### Frequently Asked Questions Continued



**Federal Aid Project**  
funded by your purchase  
of fishing equipment  
and motor boat fuels

### [Outdoor Recreation](#)

Content Last Updated on January 16, 2015.

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**Cedar Island Pump out Boat Usage**

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**Brown, Kate** <Kate.Brown@ct.gov>

Tue, May 15, 2018 at 3:39 PM

To: Matthew Kennedy &lt;mkennedy.clintonctwpcc@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Al Walker &lt;john.allen.walker@gmail.com&gt;, Kris Shapiro &lt;kris@cedarislndmarina.com&gt;

Good Afternoon Matt –

Thank you for your call today. I have attached the statistics for the pumpout boat for the last two years for your convenience. This service has been very well received by boaters in Clinton, and I believe that this free pumpout service is working very well. Cedar Island Marina operates and maintains both the pumpout vessel and the stationary pumpout system at their marina where this sanitary recreational boat waste is properly discharged to a holding tank for further pumping and treatment by a septic company. Keeping this volume of highly concentrated sanitary waste out of Clinton Harbor and Long Island Sound is critically important to water quality for fish, shellfish, wildlife, boating, swimming, fishing and positive beach experiences. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact me, or talk to Kris Shapiro at Cedar Island Marina directly about his service.

Thank you for your support of the CT Pumpout Program!!

Kate

Kate Hughes Brown

BIG/CVA Program Coordinator

Navigation and Boating Infrastructure Unit

Boating Division

Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

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[www.ct.gov/deep](http://www.ct.gov/deep)[www.ct.gov/deep/pumpoutdirectory](http://www.ct.gov/deep/pumpoutdirectory)[www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities](http://www.ct.gov/deep/transientboaterfacilities)**From:** Matthew Kennedy [mailto:mkennedy.clintonctwpcc@gmail.com]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 15, 2018 3:12 PM**To:** Brown, Kate**Cc:** Al Walker; DEEP Boating**Subject:** Cedar Island Pump out Boat Usage

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172K

From: Brown, Kate <[Kate.Brown@ct.gov](mailto:Kate.Brown@ct.gov)>  
Date: Tue, Mar 22, 2016 at 12:04 PM  
Subject: RE: Clinton's pumpout boat funding  
To: Al Walker <[john.allen.walker@gmail.com](mailto:john.allen.walker@gmail.com)>

Mr. Walker:

Thank you for your interest in the Cedar Island Pumpout Vessel. I am very happy to hear that this service is of value to you. Based on the pumpout logs that we received from Cedar Island Marina for the 2015 boating season, they removed approximately 16,005 gallons of recreational boat sewage from vessels in Clinton Harbor, including those at Cedar Island Marina and the adjacent marinas. Here is the breakdown:

Cedar Island Marina - 12,465 gallons  
Riverside Basin Marina - 135 gallons  
Clinton Yacht Haven - 2,065 gallons  
Port Clinton - 710 gallons  
Old Harbor - 600 gallons  
Boat Center - 30 gallons

I hope that this information is helpful to you. Thank you again for helping to keep our waters clean by using pumpouts!

Kate

Kate Hughes Brown  
BIG/CVA Program Coordinator  
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Boating Division  
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