

1/14/2024

To: The Chilmark Select Board, Chilmark Harbor Master, Harbor Advisory Committee, and Other Related Parties

From: Jonathan Boyd, Owner, Menemsha Blues Charters

Thank you for reading this letter into the record and considering its contents as you look to revise and update the Chilmark Waterways Rules and Regulations. As you know, I have been a charter boat captain out of Menemsha Harbor for the past 30 years.

I am concerned about some of the changes to the language in the Waterways Rules and Regulations. Of greatest concern is the requirement that: "At the end of each season, Captains shall provide the Harbormaster with a log of all for-hire trips conducted during the season with names and contact numbers of paying customers." I believe that the intent of this clause is to ensure that the boats on the charter dock are actively chartering, a goal that is reasonable and one that I support. However, to provide a list of my clients, by name and contact number, is not only a violation of my client's privacy but a violation of proprietary business information which I have developed over the past 30 years. I would have no problem attesting to the number of charters that I complete in a season *or* that I have met a threshold set by the Waterways Rules and Regulations.

At the current time, there is no threshold in the Waterways Rules and Regulations for the number of charters required per season for a boat/business to be in the charter dock area. This means that the sharing of information about my clients is solely at the potential detriment of my business and of no benefit to the town. If there is interest in setting a reasonable number of charters for boats in the charter dock area, I am happy to work with the Harbormaster, Advisory Committee, and related boards, if requested.

I stand solidly behind reasonable efforts to ensure that specific areas of the harbor are used as intended. I believe that this is attainable without sharing my clients personal information along with my own, proprietary, business contacts. A set number of charters required and an attestation to that fact would likely be sufficient.

Menemsha is one of, if not the most, important asset that Chilmark has as a town. I know I stand with other charter captains, the commercial fishing fleet, the Harbor Advisory Committee, the Harbormaster, and the Select Board in wanting to ensure that it remains a vibrant, working, fishing community. I look forward to continuing to work towards that goal as I head into my 31st season as a charter boat captain out of Menemsha Harbor.

Jonathan Boyd  
Captain and Owner  
Menemsha Blues Charters