

Information Notice to West River Homeowners Association Members

The West River Homeowners Association has been negotiating with the New York State Parks to determine how those of us who live along the river can have docks but still assist in the attempts to be more ecologically proactive in maintaining the riverfront. All negotiations require a give and take process. Our request for docks was forwarded to Albany and the local administrators have worked diligently to explain our concerns to the Albany Parks office and develop a plan where a portion of the waterfront that is owned by the State can be utilized by local residents. I understand that many people along the West River would like to have a dock in front of their home. I also know, from meetings I have attended, that people in our own town government and some local ecology organizations were lobbying against ANY docks along the West River.

Dock permit information was issued by the Parks Department this week. Letters were mailed to current dock holders and a public notice was placed in *The Grand Island Dispatch*. The decision to authorize docks along the river is the result of hours of negotiations at all levels. This morning, many people were in line at the Beaver Island Park Office to apply for the **temporary permits and be placed on the list**.

When the West River Parkway was built, residents who had docks at that time were grandfathered in as long as the home for which the dock permit was granted had not been sold by the family. Either the original owner or a family member still residing in the home had to get a new permit each year and provide proof of insurance. Sixteen of these have been continued by the families and these sixteen families will be given preference in the assigning of dock permits.

Fifty (50) docks will be allowed along the West River including the sixteen and thirty-four new docks. Once the applicants have provided the required information to the Parks Department, a permanent permit will be issued for this year. Should more than 50 people apply for a permit, they will be placed on a list and if a person files for a temporary permit and does NOT provide the necessary documentation (insurance, etc.), that application will be removed from the list and the next person on the list will be notified. Questions about the process for docks should be addressed to the Parks Department.

No permanent structures will be allowed along the riverfront. Any buildings, decks, gazebos, storage sheds, etc. must be removed before summer begins or they will be removed by the State.

All other questions about the riverfront are still being negotiated with the Parks Department. I will be meeting with their representatives again on April 23rd. I welcome your comments and questions so I can represent you to the best of my ability. Please contact me at jjc1945@roadrunner.com by April 22nd.

June Justice Crawford, President, WRHOA