



VILLAGE OF HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON

Municipal Building

7 Maple Avenue

Hastings-on-Hudson, New York 10706

48:16 OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED ANCHORAGES IN THE HUDSON RIVER

On motion of Trustee Lemons seconded by Trustee Walker, the following Resolution was duly adopted upon roll call vote:

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY, to Kingston, NY and has proposed a rule establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY; and

WHEREAS, the applicant's stated reason for establishing new anchorages is to accommodate the needs of the oil industry, whose products are toxic to the Hudson River environment and most complicit in climate change; and

WHEREAS, the contemplated Yonkers Extension Anchorage Ground would cover 715 acres for up to 16 vessels with a draft of less than 35 feet for long term usage; and

WHEREAS, the Yonkers anchorage is the largest of the proposed sites affecting Yonkers, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and the Village of Dobbs Ferry, with eight of these anchorage sites located directly to the west of Hastings-on-Hudson; and

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the City of Yonkers, Dobbs Ferry and many others have voiced their concern and opposition to the establishing new anchorage grounds; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has completed a Comprehensive Plan in 2011 that repeatedly acknowledges the importance of the Hudson River to Hastings-on-Hudson, including the views, passive recreational uses, active boating uses, and view corridors enjoyed by thousands; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is engaged in a restoration of its waterfront, working with the Riverkeeper and BP Arco to ensure that the heavily contaminated waterfront is restored to full use and to the highest standards, including the remediation of the waterfront river bottom directly in front of the former industrial lands referred to by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation in the Consent Order governing the cleanup of PCBs in this area as Operating Unit 2; and

WHEREAS, the clean-up of these offshore, underwater areas will involve a substantial industrial-scale effort with deployment of barges, dredges, test platforms, boats and the other equipment and facilities necessary to effectuate such a clean-up for several years commencing in 2017 and would be in direct conflict with the mooring uses proposed along the river and the section designated as Operating Unit 2; and

WHEREAS, the presence of parked barges directly adjacent to the remediation will pose unacceptable risks to the clean-up crews needing to navigate this section as they carry out remediation activities and also pose the risk of collisions with said barges, resulting in potential releases of fuel oils and other contaminants in the midst of a major remediation effort; and

WHEREAS, those seeking to navigate the Hudson River in this scenario would be facing parked barges and a major industrial remediation occupying a significant portion of the Hudson River at this point making such navigation potentially treacherous; and

WHEREAS, this clean-up effort is intended to remediate the site so it can be enjoyed by thousands as parkland and for the passive and active waterfront uses which would be restricted and otherwise deleteriously affected by the many barges that would be parked in front of the restored waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson has paid a steep price for the industrial use of its waterfront and waterways, seeing the direct results that pollution has had on its enjoyment of that said waterfront and believes that parking barges, including those containing oil and oil by-products risks further contamination of an area that the Village is seeking to see remediated after a century of abuse; and

WHEREAS, the proposed anchorage site abuts the main shipping channel of the river, which will increase congestion and may lead to collisions; and

WHEREAS, recreational boaters will be required be required to navigate either in the main channel used by large commercial vessels or bypass the anchorage to the west in shallow waters; and

WHEREAS, large anchoring equipment used by commercial vessels disturbs bottom sediments and can damage wildlife habitats, including those of endangered species residing in the river; and

WHEREAS, views of the Hudson River, the heart of the Hudson River Valley National Heritage area, will be disturbed for the City of Yonkers, the Village of Hastings and the Village of Dobbs Ferry, and the value of property in the Village of Hastings, as with other river municipalities, relates directly to the views of the Hudson River, especially as this portion of the Hudson River has views of the Hudson River Palisades, a national landmark preserved into perpetuity by the creation in 1900 of the Palisades Interstate Park on the western shore, creating a unique environment prized by many; and

WHEREAS, the anchoring of unmanned, unlit barges potentially carrying large amounts of fuel is a health, safety and welfare concern with the possibilities of spillage, home land security issues and aesthetic concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson lacks the marine resources to adequately patrol and protect our waterfront from the additional threats to our health, safety and welfare caused by these new anchorage grounds; and

WHEREAS, all documentation from federal agencies regarding consistency determination of a federal action will be received and forwarded by the Department of State and the municipality for review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the only notification that has been made by the Coast Guard is through in the Federal Register allowing a 35-day comment period; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson and all other municipalities affected from Yonkers to Kingston have not been so contacted and so we believe that proposed rule 2016-13701 was not promulgated in accordance with proper Federal, State and Local regulations and is therefore should be considered null and void; and

WHEREAS, the foregoing impacts of the new anchorage grounds have not been adequately studied and therefore not all impacts have been identified, especially the impact on the waterfront remediation process the Village will face, and the risks from national security threats including terrorism; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson does hereby register its strongest possible opposition to proposed rule USCG 2016-13701 and urges its disapproval; and that this resolution be distributed to Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Eliot Engel, Governor Andrew Cuomo, Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti, the United States Coast Guard, the Hudson River Waterfront Alliance, Riverkeeper, and Scenic Hudson.

ROLL CALL VOTE:	AYE	NAY
Trustee Meg Walker	X	
Trustee Nicola Armacost	Absent	
Trustee Daniel Lemons	X	
Trustee Walter Stugis	X	
Mayor Peter Swiderski	X	

CERTIFICATION

I, Susan Maggiotto, Village Clerk of Hastings-on-Hudson, do hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the Resolution adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees on Aug. 23, 2016, with the original now remaining on file at this office and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and the official seal of the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson this 26th day of August, 2016.



Susan Maggiotto, Village Clerk