

Dobbs Ferry Opposes Hudson River Extension
Anchorage



Office of the Mayor

112 Main Street
Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
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Special Update

*Dobbs Ferry Opposes Proposed
Hudson River Extension Anchorage*

mayorconnett@dobbsferry.com

August 16, 2016



Dear Residents,

The United States Coast Guard is considering establishing new anchorage grounds for barge vessels in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY, to Kingston, NY..

Part of the Coast Guard's plan includes a proposal for a '*Yonkers Extension Anchorage Ground*' which would cover approximately 715 acres for up to 16 vessels for long term usage.

The contemplated anchorage ground extension would include the waters off the shores of *Dobbs Ferry*.

The Village of Dobbs Ferry Strongly Opposes The Coast Guard's Proposed Plan

This ***Special Update*** includes additional information on the Coast Guard's proposal, Dobbs Ferry's response in opposition and planned actions, and how concerned citizens can directly voice their concerns and opposition to the proposal:

- **Detailed Information on the Proposal and Public Comment**



Here is a link to ***regulations.gov*** which is a cross agency based within the EPA to enable the public to have access and to participate in an open rule-making process; in particular federal regulatory issues. At this site you can learn more about the specifics of the proposal ***AND*** you can submit your comments, concerns and opposition to the proposal.

We encourage residents to learn more about the plan ... and please go to this link and communicate your concerns and opposition.

<https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=USCG-2016-0132-0001>

Public comments will be accepted up to September 7, 2016

For Further Information Contact:

If you are having problems or questions on the comment process or documents, call or email Mr. Craig Lapiejko, Waterways Management Branch at Coast Guard First District, telephone 617-223-8351, email craig.d.lapiejko@uscg.mil.

- **Dobbs Ferry's Resolution Against the Proposal and Other Actions to Take**

At the August 9th regular meeting of the Board, the Trustees passed a strongly worded Resolution in opposition to the plan. In the resolution opposing the plan, the board cited among other things these important facts:

- The *Yonkers Extension Anchorage Grounds* would be the largest of the proposed Hudson River sites.
- Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the City of Yonkers, and many other organizations and municipalities have expressed strong opposition to the plan.
- The Village of Dobbs Ferry Local Waterfront Revitalization Program ('LWRP') passed by the BOT in 2005, requires federal agency activities (like barge anchorage) to be carried out in a manner consistent to the approved LWRP, and its procedures.
- There has been an extreme short-notice period made by the Coast Guard.
- Dobbs Ferry and other municipalities have not been individually notified.
- Historical and Natural views will be disturbed
- Anchorage extension will increase congestion on the river, leading to more accidents and collisions
- Recreational boaters will be at risk
- Anchoring equipment used by commercial vessels will damage wildlife habitats.
- Anchorage presents a major environmental hazard including the increased risk of dangerous oil spillage.
- Anchorage presents a major security risk including the storage of oil and/or industrial materials

The full body of the Resolution adopted by the Board is included at the bottom of this Update.

In addition to the Resolution adopted, the Village is also taking other steps to help communicate opposition to the plan:

- The Village has directly contacted all of our ***State and Federal Representatives*** asking for their support to oppose the anchorage plan. If you are as concerned, please contact your representatives.
- The Village is also in direct contact with the ***City of Yonkers*** in a coordinated

effort to oppose; the village is also communicating directly with *Hastings-On-Hudson*, *Irvington*, and other municipalities both directly or indirectly impacted.

- The Village has contacted important environmental and historical organizations for their help, including *Riverkeeper* and *Scenic Hudson*.



<http://www.riverkeeper.org/>



<http://www.scenichudson.org/>

- The Village is also communicating as appropriate with the *media and local press organizations* to help 'spread the word' and disseminate information to the public about the plan, and actions we can all take to voice our concerns.

Here is a recent article in the *New York Times* ' *Plan to Let Barges Park on the Hudson Meets Resistance in 'River Towns'* '

The New York Times

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/16/nyregion/plan-to-let-barges-park-on-the-hudson-meets-resistance-in-river-towns.html?smprod=nytcore-iphone&smid=nytcore-iphone-share>

We live along one of the most beautiful, historic and majestic river ways on the entire planet.

The Coast Guard's proposed *Extension Anchorage Plan* should be of concern to each of us; not just because of the negative impacts to Dobbs Ferry, but more importantly what it means for the future of the entire Hudson River Community. As citizens we should do everything we can to express our

concerns and opposition to the plan ... the Village of Dobbs Ferry will do everything it can as well.

We will keep everyone posted as to any new information and/or developments on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Mayor Hartley Connett

October 2, 2015

mayorconnett@dobbsferry.com

www.dobbsferry.com

Here is the full text to the resolution passed by the Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees:



VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY

112 Main Street
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522
TEL: (914) 231-8500 • FAX: (914) 693-3470

RESOLUTION 19-2016

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF DOBBS FERRY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED
RULE 2016-13701

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

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard proposed a rule establishing new anchorage grounds in the Hudson River from Yonkers, NY to Kingston, NY; 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 effecting Yonkers, the Village of Hastings and the Village of Dobbs Ferry; and

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

WHEREAS, Village of Dobbs Ferry Local Waterfront Revitalization Program, passed by the Village of Dobbs Ferry Board of Trustees on August 9, 2005, approved by New York Secretary of State on November 1, 2006 and concurred by the US Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management on November 19, 2007 includes the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) requirements; and

WHEREAS, one of the requirements of the CZMA mandates that each Federal agency activity within or outside the coastal zone that affects any; and or water use or natural resource of the coastal zone shall be carried out in a manner which is consistent, to the maximum extent as practicable, with the enforceable policies of approved LWRP's Procedures for LWRP consistency review and determination of direct actions and permit/license actions of federal agencies are coordinated by the New York Department of State (DOS); and

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

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Dobbs Ferry, DOS and all other municipalities affected from Yonkers to Kingston have not been individually notified; and

WHEREAS, views of the Hudson will be disturbed for the City of Yonkers, the Village of Hastings and the Village of Dobbs Ferry; 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 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, the value of property in the Village of Dobbs Ferry, as with other river municipalities, relates directly to the views of the Hudson River; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Dobbs Ferry in conjunction with the County of Westchester and residents of Dobbs Ferry have rebuilt an underutilized waterfront park to what is now a vibrant, active and beautiful location for jazz festivals, July 4th celebrations, picnics and various active and passive recreational

activities; 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 Dobbs Ferry 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, the foregoing impacts of the new anchorage grounds have not been adequately studied; indeed, not all impacts have been identified; now therefor be it

RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dobbs Ferry notes 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dobbs Ferry does hereby register its strongest possible opposition to proposed rule USCG 2016-13701 and urge its disapproval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dobbs Ferry urge residents to voice their concerns on the proposed new anchorage locations identified as USCG-2016-0132 at <http://www.regulations.gov> by September 7, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be distributed to Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Nita Lowey, Congressman Eliot Engel, Governor Cuomo, Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblyman Thomas Abinanti.

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You requested to be on this list through the Village of Dobbs Ferry

Our mailing address is:

Village of Dobbs Ferry
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Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522