

Town Boat Ramp – Waterman Lane

Aside from maintaining our existing infrastructure and Town activities, this year we are asking voters to consider a boat ramp at the end of Waterman Lane next to the Town's house in which Josh Lemoi and his family are currently living.

The purpose of the ramp is to provide easy access to the Thoroughfare from Town-owned property. The Board considered the Town's very limited options regarding water access and concluded this location is the most appropriate. The ramp would only be available to people putting in skiffs and other small boats on trailers, as well as for canoes, kayaks, and other portable watercraft. The ramp would feature a place to tie off a boat after launching it, while the owner moves the vehicle and trailer elsewhere. This would consist of a small concrete bulkhead on the western side connected to floats. The rocks in the area would be marked so people could leave the area in a boat safely at any tide.

There would be no short- or long-term vehicle and trailer parking on site. Likewise, the floats are for temporary use; not for tying off a boat and leaving it there overnight.

The total estimated cost of the project is approximately \$100,000. We are asking voters to approve two articles related to this project.

Article 34: Shall the Town vote to expand the use of the Floats & Docks Reserve Fund to include building a boat ramp at the end of Waterman Lane?

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)
(Select Board recommends approval)

Article 35: Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$64,000 from taxation for the Floats & Docks Reserve Fund to build a boat launch ramp at the end of Waterman Lane in the event that the previous warrant article passes?

(Budget Committee makes no recommendation)
(Select Board recommends approval)

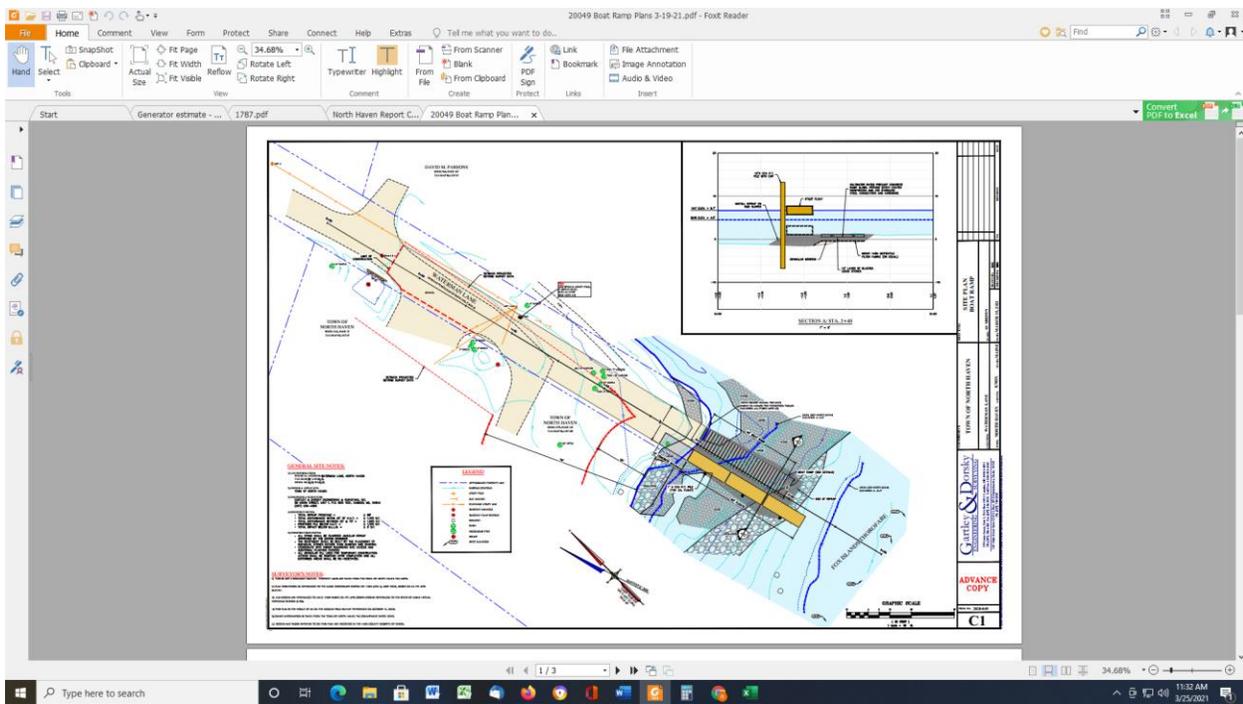
The Floats and Docks Reserve account currently contains \$50,960. The Select Board recommends expanding the purpose of that reserve account to allow for the construction of the new boat ramp and to use approximately \$36,000 of those funds to put toward the ramp. The remaining \$64,000 would be available if Article 35 passes. Funding the boat ramp in this way would leave \$14,000 in the reserve account, which is the cost to build a new float, should we need one. Last year Brown's built a new float for Burnt Island. Our current floats are in good shape, so we do not anticipate the need for a new one in the immediate future. But the Board feels holding onto \$14,000 is prudent, just in case.

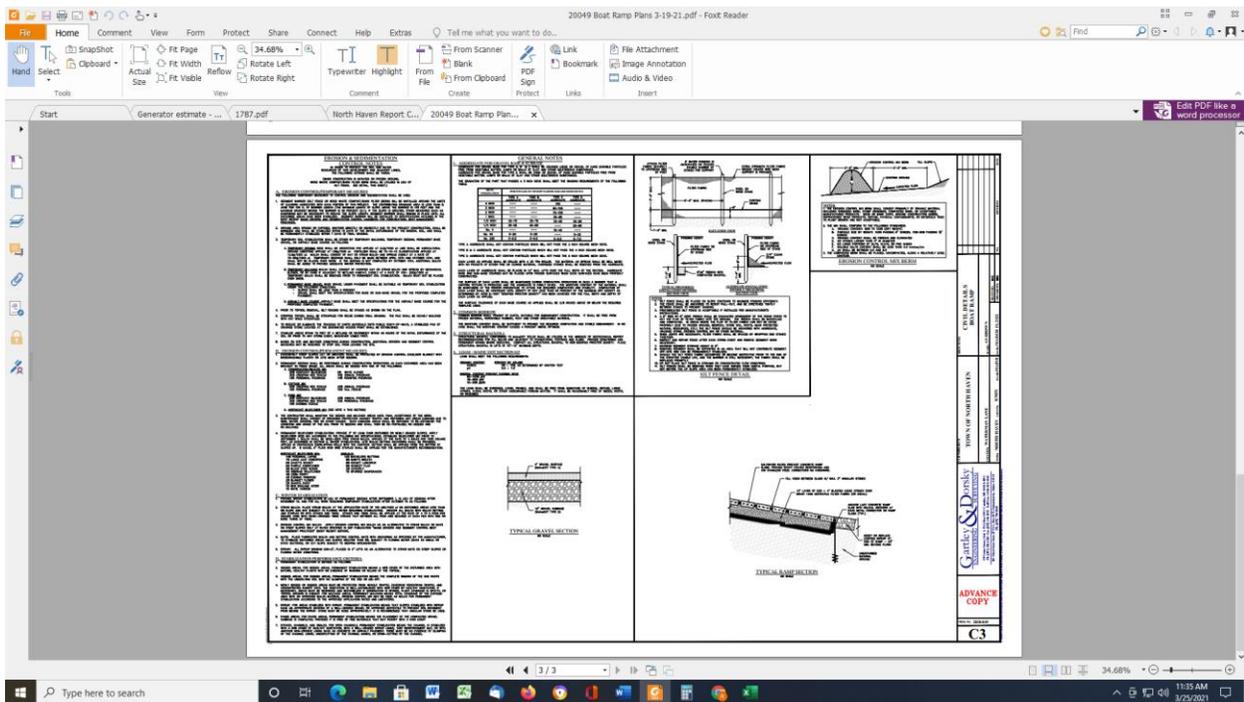
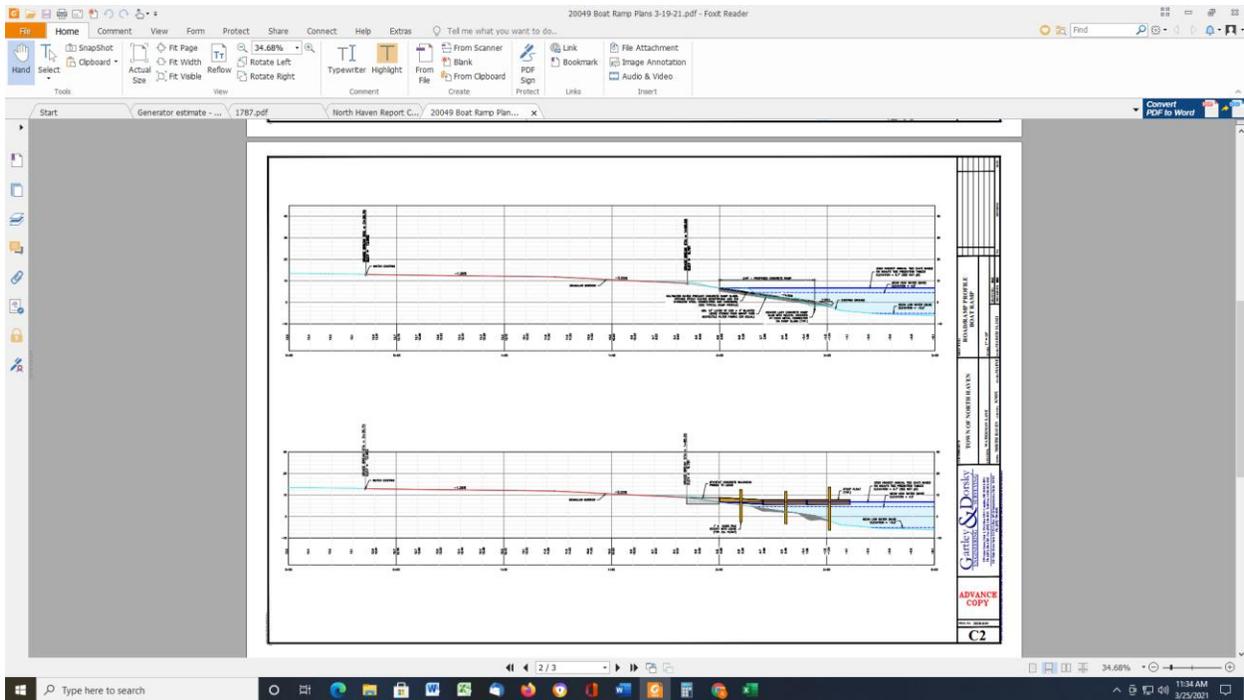
The ramp would consist of pre-cast concrete slabs interconnected with one another and laid in over a gravel base. The Town would need to obtain a land-use/shoreland zoning permit as well as a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers.

As noted in the warrant articles, the Select Board recommends approval, while the Budget Committee made no recommendation. The reasons for the Budget Committee’s decision not to make a recommendation—for or against—are that we did not have the final plans from Gartley & Dorsky at the time the Budget Committee met to consider this year’s draft warrant and that the committee has concerns about both the placement of the proposed ramp and its accessibility to vehicles and trailers. The Select Board, on the other hand, believes the ramp would go some way toward making the island’s waters more accessible to its residents and visitors. Please talk with the Budget Committee and Select Board members if you have particular questions about their views.

You can most easily view the plans on the Town’s website, www.northhavenmaine.org, under the Bulletin Board section.

Here are small images of the plans for the proposed ramp:





You will also be able to look at larger versions of the plans during the public hearing for the Town Warrant on April 8th, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm in the Community Building (or via Zoom). You are also welcome to come by the Town Office to look at the plans.