

Non-water dependent structures hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Submitted by Stewart E Sulloway, 520 Upper Ridge Rd, Bridgton, ME 04009

In 2022 and 2023, on Highland Lake in Bridgton we had some issues with a home-made houseboat mooring in various undesirable places on the lake.

First he was moored off of Taylor Town, an association at the southern end of the lake. Apparently, the folks at Taylor Town did not like this and his mooring was cut twice.

The next incident was in 2023, when I was returning from a SUP workout and discovered him hooked up to my neighbor's mooring. I informed the boat captain that he was on a private mooring and he replied that he was aware of that fact. He told me to mind my own business. I told him I had been helping to care for the neighbor's waterfront for over twenty years and was sure he was not wanted there. He moved to the Town dock, where the houseboat spent the night. The police informed him in the morning that he was not to tie up to the Town dock overnight under any circumstances.

Next he moored off of my property. One evening, I was playing music with a friend by the waterfront and the houseboat owner headed to the town dock in his kayak. He came close to our shore and greeted me by name, saying "Thanks for sicking the Police on me." I had brought the issue up to the Select Board, but had not contacted the Police. He continued, "The music sounds good. You have a great view here. I think I'll move my mooring so I can enjoy that view while I listen to your music!" I have two neighbors who share that view (and the view of his houseboat, and one of them, Wilbur Libby, also spoke to him. Will asked him what he had for sanitation facilities aboard the houseboat. He replied, "A bucket. Fish and birds go in the lake."

For the purpose of this committee, the concerns are the sanitary issue and protection of the resource, of course. Most towns that have tried to address houseboat issues have also had to approach the issue of mooring regulation. Getting those ordinances to pass a town vote is difficult and enforcement costs extra money, which is never extra. A statewide statute on mooring regulation would be helpful.

Stewart E Sulloway

Stewart Sulloway
Bridgton
LD 1763

Non-water dependent structures hearing on Wednesday, April 30, 2025

Submitted by Stewart E Sulloway, 520 Upper Ridge Rd, Bridgton, ME 04009

In 2022 and 2023, on Highland Lake in Bridgton we had some issues with a home-made houseboat mooring in various undesirable places on the lake.

First he was moored off of Taylor Town, an association at the southern end of the lake. Apparently, the folks at Taylor Town did not like this and his mooring was cut twice.

The next incident was in 2023, when I was returning from a SUP workout and discovered him hooked up to my neighbor's mooring. I informed the boat captain that he was on a private mooring and he replied that he was aware of that fact. He told me to mind my own business. I told him I had been helping to care for the neighbor's waterfront for over twenty years and was sure he was not wanted there. He moved to the Town dock, where the houseboat spent the night. The police informed him in the morning that he was not to tie up to the Town dock overnight under any circumstances.

Next he moored off of my property. One evening, I was playing music with a friend by the waterfront and the houseboat owner headed to the town dock in his kayak. He came close to our shore and greeted me by name, saying "Thanks for sicking the Police on me." I had brought the issue up to the Select Board, but had not contacted the Police. He continued, "The music sounds good. You have a great view here. I think I'll move my mooring so I can enjoy that view while I listen to your music!" I have two neighbors who share that view (and the view of his houseboat, and one of them, Wilbur Libby, also spoke to him. Will asked him what he had for sanitation facilities aboard the houseboat. He replied, "A bucket. Fish and birds go in the lake."

For the purpose of this committee, the concerns are the sanitary issue and protection of the resource, of course. Most towns that have tried to address houseboat issues have also had to approach the issue of mooring regulation. Getting those ordinances to pass a town vote is difficult and enforcement costs extra money, which is never extra. A statewide statute on mooring regulation would be helpful.

Stewart E Sulloway