

Smithtown Bay Yacht Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 562, Smithtown, NY 11787
(631) 584-9680



Stony Brook Yacht Club
P.O. Box 755, Stony Brook, NY 11790
(631) 751-9873

June 2, 2016

Hon. Steve Bellone
H.L. Dennison Bldg.
100 Veterans Hwy., P.O. Box 6100
Hauppauge, NY 11788

Dear County Executive Bellone:

We would like to bring to your attention a very serious problem which has the potential to adversely affect the safety of thousands of boaters in the Smithtown and Stony Brook areas.

Simply stated, the channel leading out to Smithtown Bay...(beyond Porpoise Channel and Stony Brook Harbor)...has reached a point where, at low-tide, it is all but impassable. This channel is not only used by the 300+ members of our respective yacht clubs but also by the thousands of Smithtown and Brookhaven residents who keep their boats in a Town Marina or launch from the various boat ramps.

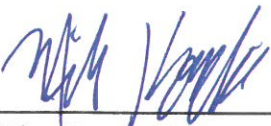
The current situation is so dire that, for a lengthy period of time extending either side of dead low-tide, there is oftentimes only one to two feet of water between Channel Buoys 5 and 9 leading out into the Bay and the Sound.

Not only does this situation present a serious navigation hazard to boats leaving and entering Smithtown Bay, but it virtually precludes the ability of the Bay Constable personnel to rapidly respond to any medical or other significant emergency which might occur in the Sound, north of Smithtown Bay during these twice-daily periods. Thus, the very lives and safety of Smithtown and Brookhaven residents are in jeopardy should they experience an emergency requiring assistance while on the water during low-tide periods.

We understand that the Town of Smithtown Dept. of Environment & Waterways Director, Russel Barnett, requested in June of 2015 that the S.C. Dept. of Public Works give a high priority to the need for dredging in these two critical areas, (see attached correspondence, item #3).

We strongly encourage you to request that the SCDPW both address and alleviate this very serious problem in the most expeditious manner. Inasmuch as the 2016 boating season is fast approaching, nothing less than the health and safety of Smithtown and Brookhaven boaters is at stake.

Most respectfully yours,



Mike Kozyrski, Commodore
Smithtown Bay Yacht Club



Denis Lynch, Commodore
Stony Brook Yacht Club

cc: Hon. Patrick Vecchio, Supervisor, Town of Smithtown
Hon. Edward Romaine, Supervisor, Town of Brookhaven
John Valentine, Director, Dept. of Public Safety, Town of Smithtown
Peter O'Leary, Commissioner, Dept. of Public Safety, Town of Brookhaven
Russell Barnett, Director, Dept. of Environment & Waterways, Town of Smithtown
Patrick Gilligan, Smithtown Bay Constable
Suffolk County Legislators, Smithtown and Brookhaven Townships