

OIL BARGES ON HUDSON – Resolution

On motion by Mr. DeLucia, seconded by Mr. Parsons, the Board voted as follows:

THE VOTE:	Yes	- DeLucia, Pappalardo, Parsons, Welsh	(4)
	No	- None	(0)
	Abstain	- Kelly	(1)

RESOLUTION – 2016

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF LEWISBORO URGING THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO REJECT PROPOSED RULE USCG-2016-0132 IN RELATION TO ESTABLISHING NEW LONG-TERM ANCHORAGE GROUNDS IN THE HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY

WHEREAS, Congress designated the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area in Title IX of Public Law 104-333 (1996), as amended by Section 324 of Public Law 105-83; and

WHEREAS, in proposed rule USCG-2016-0132, the United States Coast Guard is considering establishing new long-term anchorage grounds in the Hudson River estuary in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, this proposed rule is irreconcilable with the adopted Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area Management Plan approved by the United States Secretary of the Interior; and

WHEREAS, the Coast Guard is contemplating an Extension Anchorage Ground that would cover approximately 715 acres for up to 16 vessels with a draft of less than 35 feet for long term usage which commercial tankers would use as rest stops; and

WHEREAS, such rule would extend significantly the Hudson River Anchorage Ground adjacent to the City of Yonkers, Village of Hastings-on-Hudson, Village of Dobbs Ferry, and other locations in order to allow for increased shipping and on-river storage activities; and

WHEREAS, although the Town of Lewisboro is not located along the coastal areas of the Hudson River, as Westchester municipality, the inland municipalities of Westchester County would also be negatively impacted as a result of the establishment of new long-term anchorage grounds in the Hudson River estuary in the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is in direct conflict with 50 years of significant effort to clean up the Hudson River estuary and restore its natural habitats by all levels of government and numerous regional and community-based organizations; and

WHEREAS, Clearwater, the League of Conservation Voters, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, the Village of Irvington, the Village of Dobbs Ferry, and many others have voiced their concern and opposition to the establishing new anchorage grounds; and

WHEREAS, these anchorage sites pose a navigational hazard to recreational and commercial boaters who will be forced to navigate around the anchorages, creating the risk of collision; and

WHEREAS, scientific research shows that the habitats of some fish have been affected by previous anchorage sites; and

WHEREAS, the pile moorings used to create long-term anchorages pose an environmental risk by disturbing sediment along the riverbed as well as to the natural habitat of two Hudson River endangered species, the shortnose and Atlantic sturgeon; and

WHEREAS, vessels containing volatile crude oil and petroleum products pose a serious health risk whereby an anchored boat containing these hazardous materials could catch fire or spill toxic oil in the river; and

WHEREAS, owing to its location in the largest major metropolitan area in the United States, these anchorages would present an opportune target for terrorists and the proposal under consideration provides no additional mechanism or funding for policing our waterfront; and

WHEREAS, the proposed anchorage sites would also take a toll on the scenic beauty of the Hudson River and waterfront revitalization and tourism; and

WHEREAS, many in our community are concerned about the impact of constant noise, light and smoke from anchored boats, as many of the proposed sites are nearby homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, to our knowledge, there was no direct notification of the proposed rule made to any of the affected communities along the length of the Hudson River as required by Federal Coastal Zone Management requirements; and

WHEREAS, the said proposal would create navigational, health, environmental, homeland security, economic and quality-of-life problems for the affected areas; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro pause in its deliberations to urge the United States Coast Guard to reject proposed rule USCG-2016-0132 in relation to establishing new long-term anchorage grounds in the Hudson River estuary;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro further pauses in its deliberations to urge a comprehensive briefing of elected and public safety officials from all affected river communities in Westchester, such briefing to include additional technical details of the proposal, timelines, and the status of the environmental review under NEPA;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro urges the Coast Guard to extend the public comment period for the proposed extension of the Hudson River anchorage grounds for an additional ninety (90) days so that our economic, environmental, and public safety and health concerns can be articulated;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to submit a copy of this resolution to the docket at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=USCG-2016-0132> on or before the 24 day of October, 2016;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Governor Andrew Cuomo; NY State Senator 40 S.D. Terrence Murphy, NY State Assemblyman 93<sup>rd</sup> Assembly District David Buchwald, and Congressman 18<sup>th</sup> District Sean Patrick Maloney.

I, JANET L. DONOHUE, Town Clerk of the Town of Lewisboro, County of Westchester, State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding copy of a Resolution adopted by the Town Board of the Town of Lewisboro at a meeting held on the 24th day of October, 2016, to the original thereof, and that the same is a true and exact copy of said original and of the whole thereof.

Janet L. Donohue  
Town Clerk

Dated at South Salem, New York  
this 25th day of October, 2016