

Richard Pope

On page 3 of the **Town of Cobourg Strategic Plan Components (2019-2022)**, item 3 of the Strategic Actions under “Places” reads as follows: “Review the expansion of boat slips into the west harbour recommendation contained in the waterfront master plan.”

Below this, under “Desired Outcomes,” we read “Cobourg’s natural environment will be safeguarded and protected.”

The expansion of the Marina and safeguarding Cobourg’s natural environment are **incompatible**. You cannot have both. It would be interesting to see how Council would fit Marina expansion into the climate change action plan mentioned in the same section.

Not sure why this recommendation is being reviewed in this new strategic plan? Adding boat slips to the west side of the central pier is item 27 in the priority matrix results of the **Waterfront User Needs Assessment and Detailed Design** document (p. 91). It does not number among the advanced projects listed on p. 95. It is included in Project #7 as part of **Marina Enhancement Phase 1** (p. 102), which is to begin in Year 6 (design) and Year 7 (construction). (p.116).

I am saddened that this issue may have to be thrashed out yet again. The preceding Council firmly voted down Marina expansion into the West Harbour. There was a misapprehension about this. Even the authors of the Waterfront User Needs study were long under the impression that Council had not firmly voted down Marina expansion into the West Harbour. As late as the April 2018 draft, we read “While some questioned why the Marina expansion was still being discussed as part of this study, **it was only deferred** by Council and therefore remains an important issue that needs to be carefully considered” (p. 18). This deferral reference was taken out of the final plan (p. 20), but sadly this piece of misinformation took root and influenced the study.

Now people are upset because it was so clear that the majority of townsfolk did not want the Marina to expand west of the central pier. The preceding Council thought they had put the issue to rest with the following motion: June 29, 2015: “Now therefore be it resolved that Council directs that any plans regarding the expansion of boat slips at the Cobourg Marina west of the Centre Pier cease effective immediately.”

Perhaps, however, it is a good thing that this expansion problem has been carved out of the Waterfront User Needs document and brought forward. I’m of two minds. Relatively few people know this has suddenly been brought forward for discussion today.

The bottom line is that:

**The people of Cobourg were absolutely promised that this item, when it came up for consideration, would receive a most thorough and open public airing.**

I trust that if it is left on the agenda of the Strategic Plan, that this will be the case.