

From: [Pam Petranek](#)
To: [Joanna Sanders](#)
Subject: public comment: Fireworks rule
Date: Monday, September 9, 2024 9:10:29 AM
Attachments: [PoPT_map.pdf](#)

From: Mitch Rabenold <mitchrabenold@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 8, 2024 3:19 PM
To: Pam Petranek <Pam@portofpt.com>; Carol Hasse <Carol@portofpt.com>; Pete Hanke <phanke@portofpt.com>
Cc: Eron Berg <Eron@portofpt.com>
Subject: Fireworks rule

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to you to investigate the possibility of changing the Port's rule on fireworks as it applies to the boat ramp directly adjacent to the Port property leased to the Quilcene Harbor Yacht Club. I have attached a map to show exactly the area in question.

The ramp in question, (The Ramp), has been the site of community consumer fireworks use for twenty years or more, until this past July 4th when the rule awareness was elevated and fireworks use was curtailed. I myself have put on some sophisticated consumer fireworks displays at The Ramp over the last 5 years or so, to celebrate the Fourth of July and New Year's Eve. I did so in the belief that it was accepted practice, as it has occurred for many years prior, law enforcement and fire officials were aware of it, and no problems or complaints were raised. When I first encountered fireworks at The Ramp, it was a free for all with everybody doing their own thing with a fair amount of chaos. That led me to come up with a way to do it better, which is a centralized show using a computer scripted launch control system.

This past July 4th, a very vocal anti-fireworks contingent in Brinnon generated an inquiry to the Port about the rules. That awareness was shared with me via the Sheriff's department, and ultimately the county Fire Marshal acquiesced that I could do my show as long as it was on private property with the owner's consent, since the Port didn't allow it. The audience still gathered at The Ramp, but my show was shot from several doors north of the Yacht Club on a one-time only basis.

Part of that communication process included a couple of phone calls I had with Port Executive Director Eron Berg. I asked him about a possible rule change and he suggested I get in contact with you all. Notably, he stated that he has never received a complaint about fireworks at The

Ramp.

I'm sure you have many questions about the details of this inquiry, and I don't imagine I can anticipate all of them off the bat. Most specific is the scope of the rule change I am seeking. It would apply only to The Ramp, and only for one night on or about July 4th, and the night of New Year's Eve. I am happy to make a detailed presentation of how I do the shows, the materials involved, legality of consumer fireworks, safety measures, cleanup requirements and anything else you may want to know. Also, we will honor a fireworks ban declared under a high fire hazard condition, as happened in 2023, and always abide by the relevant state and county laws.

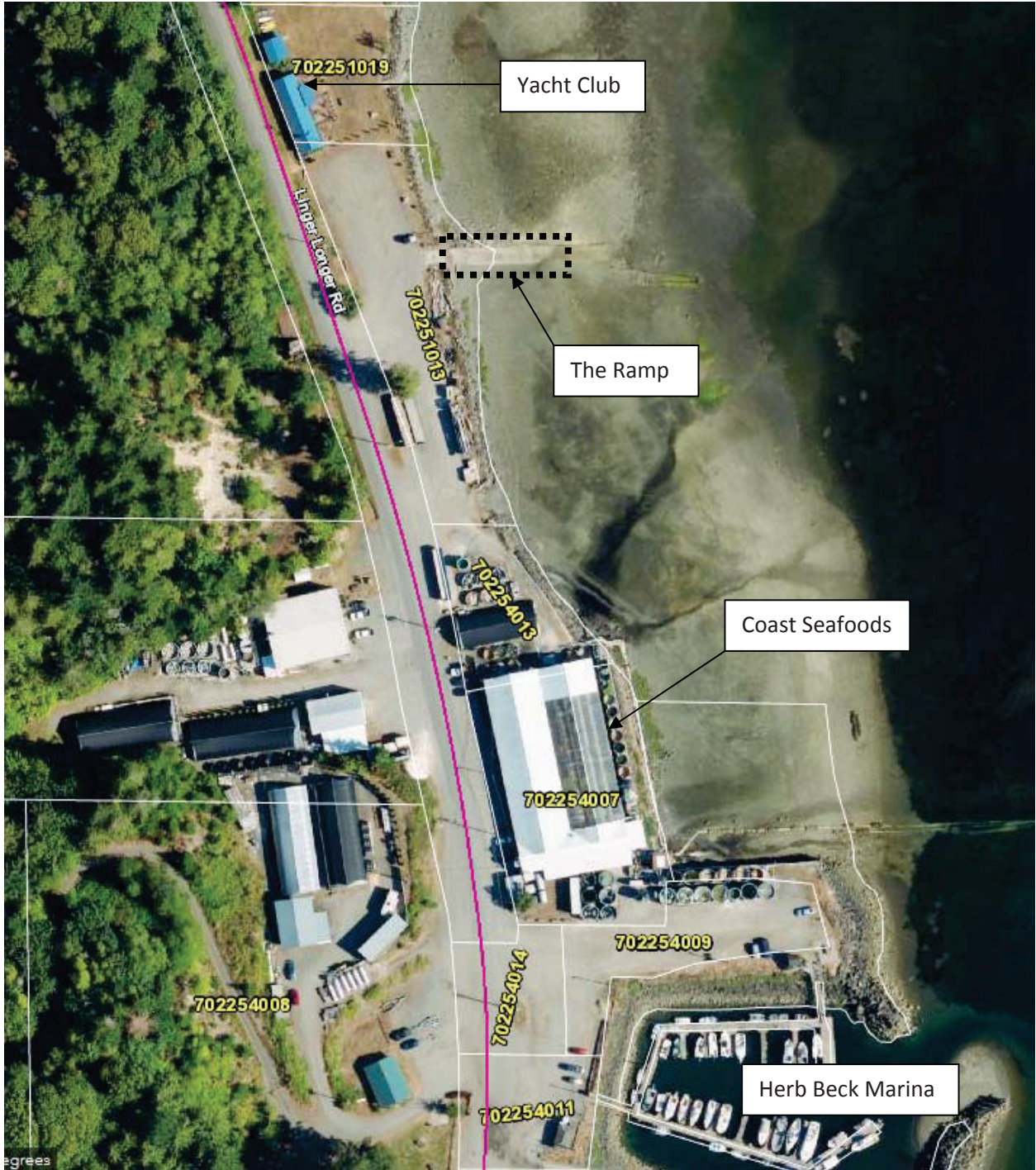
The shows are very much enjoyed by the community, which is why I have done them. During Covid especially, it gave people a chance to get out and enjoy a sense of community while maintaining a safe distance. It has been a tradition in Quilcene for a good many years and is looked forward to by a sizable group of people. It is this tradition that I am trying to preserve.

The Ramp is a very good location for the fireworks as it has adequate safe distance from buildings and flammable materials, spacious parking accommodations, allows for angling of fireworks over the water and away from the audience, and is minutes away from fire and life safety resources if the unthinkable occurred.

I hope you will consider this with open minds and engage in dialogue to fully understand the issues before any decisions are made. I am available at your convenience and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

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Yacht Club

The Ramp

Coast Seafoods

Herb Beck Marina

702251019

702251013

702254013

702254007

702254009

702254006

702254014

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