

Mud Bay is a Community Dock. So what is a Community Dock?

Most docks are Public or Private Docks. Few are Community Docks. Private and Public Docks charge fees focused on profit or expansion. There isn't much confusion on the distinction between a Private and a Public Dock. The problem is trying to clarify the difference between a Public and Community Dock

“Public” and “Community” sound similar. They are. Sometimes they are used interchangeably. However, they have subtle differences.

Community:

- People living in an area
- The area itself
- An interacting population of various kinds of individuals in a common location
- Group of people with common interests living together within a larger society
- Joint ownership or participation

Public:

- Relating to or affecting all the people
- Of or relating to government
- Relating to or engaged in the service of the community or nation
- Of or relating to mankind in general – universal
- Of or relating to business or community interests as opposed to private affairs
- devoted to general welfare
- Accessible to or shared by all members of the community
- Exposed to general view

If you look up **public versus community** in a dictionary, you see community is a smaller subset of public. Public relates to or affects all the people.

Community requires not just a common location, but interaction, common interests, living together in a larger society, and joint ownership or participation.

Participation is distinct from use;

- To participate is to engage or share in something in common with others. Share is to give or be given, to have a share.

- To use is to take. Use does not imply sharing or taking responsibility.

We have a Community Dock. Our dock is not a Public Dock. The Mud Bay Dock is paid for, and maintained by, residents of Protection Island. We do this through a combination of fees (to cover our overhead and limited maintenance) and by way of hundreds of hours of volunteer time, as well as by donations.

Those who have paid towards the overhead costs have decals showing Paid member of Protection Island Mud Bay dock. Anyone else using this dock is doing so against the expressed wishes of the lease license holder (Protection Island Rate Payer Association).

If we look at our rules (Posted on the Dock) it becomes clear we have found the distinction relevant in the past. It is important to note the distinction. This is especially important as we hold the liability and maintenance obligations.

Our dock is located on the end of the Island heavily used by non resident customers of the Dingy Dock Pub. Visitors who walk through the park with little children and allow them to run down the dock are an ongoing concern.

This summer we had numerous overnight – up to two week stay (non resident) visitors using the dock this summer. Typically, they park the boat in areas that are the easiest for daily commuters to get in and out of, and leave them there for a week or even two at a time. More recently, some contractors have been tying up all day.

None of these groups should be using the Mud Bay dock. These individuals are not part of our “community”.

Submitted as part of the Dock Report September 2006 PIRA Directors Meeting

Cathy Pearson, PIRA Director on Mud Bay Dock Committee
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