

**Packet Addition
March 24, 2026,
Township Board
Regular Meeting**

Correspondence

Becky Chown

To: Maura Sanders
Subject: RE: Comments on Ordinance #206 – Shoreline Regulations

From: Marc Gall <mrg0557@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2026 3:50 PM
To: Maura Sanders <supervisor@peninsulatownship.com>; Planner <planner@peninsulatownship.com>
Subject: Comments on Ordinance #206 – Shoreline Regulations

Please add this letter to the Meeting Packet for 3/24/26.

Dear Members of the Peninsula Township Board,

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding Ordinance #206 – Shoreline Regulations.

First, I would like to express my support for the majority of the proposed revisions. I appreciate the Planning Commission's hard work on this matter and commend them for taking action based on resident input. It is clear that a great deal of time and consideration has gone into developing these updates.

However, I do have a concern regarding the proposed water-side 30-foot setbacks for Shared Waterfront docks.

For the past two-plus years during which this shoreline ordinance has been discussed, setbacks in the water have consistently been presented as 15 feet. This standard provides a reasonable 30-foot buffer between neighboring docks, which offers ample space for swimming, navigation, and safety.

The newly proposed requirement of 30-foot setbacks would effectively create a 60-foot separation between neighboring docks. This represents a significant change from prior discussions and expectations. What is particularly concerning is that this increased setback appears to apply only to Shared Waterfront property owners, while non-shared waterfront owners would continue to be subject to a 15-foot setback.

While I agree that a 30-foot setback at the shoreline may promote safety, the same standard does not translate well into the water. Most dock configurations are T-shaped, and applying a full 30-foot water-side setback significantly limits the practical and functional use of those docks. In many cases, a 15-foot setback in the water has proven to be an effective way for Shared Waterfront owners to maintain safe, usable, and properly configured dock systems. If concerns have arisen in specific situations, those should be addressed individually rather than applying a broad, more restrictive requirement to all properties.

Additionally, this proposed change may unintentionally create hardship for many existing property owners by rendering current dock configurations nonconforming. It could also lead to inefficient use of waterfront space without a clear safety benefit.

In my opinion, this creates an uneven and unnecessary burden on Shared Waterfront owners.

I respectfully ask the Board to reconsider this portion of the ordinance and retain the 15-foot water-side setback for all properties, including Shared Waterfront. This standard has provided a balance of safety, fairness, and reasonable use for many years while still preserving the intent of shoreline protections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Marc Gall
2366 Harbor Reach Dr
Traverse City, MI 49686

Sent from my iPhone

Resolution 2026-03-24 #13

Resolution 2026-03-24 #13

Present: _____

Absent: _____

Motion by _____, seconded by _____, to approve Resolution 2026-03-24 #13 authorizing the township trustees to receive a 3% cost of living adjustment to:

\$8,111.25 annually

Upon a roll call vote, the following voted:

Aye: _____

Nay: _____

The chairman declared the resolution adopted.

Becky Chown,
Peninsula Township Clerk

March 24, 2026