



Hart-Miller Island Community Benefits Agreement  
Public Commentary  
[hmi@baltimorecountymd.gov](mailto:hmi@baltimorecountymd.gov)

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August 2, 2024

**Comments:**

I am hoping that the crucial saltmarsh habitats can be preserved in the north cell of HMI for birds.

August 8, 2024

**Comments:**

Since we have an opportunity for improvements, I would like to have our storm drain ditch at the end of Wells ave piped in. The drainage piping ends before it continues around the wooded area. The open ditch is a mosquito breeding place.

Also the church at the end of Ross ave is a food pantry for the community and improvements in our distribution would be a blessing. I.e. Cold and regular storage with kitchen options. I welcome further interests and improvements.

Thanks.

**Comments:**

The North Point Edgemere VFD is starting a campaign for a new fire rescue response vessel and needs financial assistance. We also need a new pier located on the back river side of the peninsula to dock our boat. These two projects would be great and would enhance our response to Hart-Miller Island.

August 16, 2024

**Comments:**

I personally don't want the dredging material transported across all these bodies of water to contaminate our waterways even more and the smell from it. I have been a property owner for nearly 44 years here on the eastern Baltimore county waterways and it has brought a nuisance of bugs from it in the past, and I feel it should be contained to Trade Point there is plenty on land there to fill in. The County promised us years ago that this would stop but they continue to want to keep added to this dredging at HMI. Why should the residents of the Eastside co to use to have to put up with this. Maybe check the health records of our resident because of all of this disposal throughout the years. Do the right thing and keep it on their own land and not transport it on our waterways.

Thank you

August 20, 2024

**Comments:**

The Sparrows Point North Point Historical Society wants to firmly state our opposition against the proposal for TradePoint Atlantic, Baltimore County, and the State to utilize Hart and Miller Island, our cherished State Park, as a site for toxic waste disposal. This proposal sets a perilous precedence that could lead to the exploitation of State Parks for profit by other businesses around the country. Our community refuses to allow the degradation of our treasured State Park, regardless of financial incentives.

Since 2015, we have been advocating for a Community Benefit Agreement (CBA). It is time for TradePoint Atlantic, Baltimore County, and the State to step up and demonstrate corporate social responsibility, positively impacting society and the environment. We firmly assert that corporations, counties, and states must operate in ways that enrich society and the environment rather than contribute negatively. We specifically speak for Sparrows Point and Edgemere. We endure the traffic, and the noise from racing cars, and tractor-trailers. The air pollution, the trash dumping on the roads. The increase in crime. The tractor-trailers and cars racing down North Point Blvd. while school buses are turning into Edgemere. We have endured 125 years of pollution and wastewater. It's time to demand the motto "You grow, we grow" and hold those responsible for these impacts accountable. It is essential to implement a CBA to address the effects TradePoint Atlantic has already had on this peninsula and to ensure that corporate responsibility enhances our society and environment. This beautiful peninsula deserves better.

THE CBA: Our community's heritage deserves preservation, and we urge an effort to restore it. TradePoint Atlantic has relocated our heritage to the city, and we believe it should be brought back to our community. All neighboring communities have heritage centers, and we believe it's essential that we have one as well to tell our story. Safe routes to school, with the implementation of sidewalks for children to travel to school safely, are necessary and should have already been realized through Baltimore County with a federal grant. We strongly advocate for a lower speed limit through Edgemere, along with monitoring by photo, particularly for 25MPH. We believe Baltimore County Public School (BCPS) must acquire the property behind Food Lion to expand the impervious surface for Sparrows Point High School. Additionally, obtaining the St. Luke property to alleviate overcrowding and parking issues at the High School is vital. We believe there is a pressing need for a new middle school. Furthermore, we must support Ft. Howard Park to aid the veterans, and we propose transforming it into a State Park or a Federal Park for the benefit of the community. The current state of the property cannot be allowed to persist. The rerouting of trucks from TradePoint Atlantic to ensure the safety of our children is of paramount importance, and they should not be permitted to travel down North Point Blvd where buses carrying children operate.

August 21, 2024

**Comments:**

Baltimore County Executive when asked what about Turner Station having same type community Meeting. He agreed that a meeting shall take place same type as Sparrow Point High School with Water

Edge, Carnegie Platts Communities combine.  
Thanks

August 22, 2024

**Comments:**

In my position as Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Baltimore Bird Club as well as Baltimore County resident residing close to Hart-Miller Island, I have been working on drafting the Baltimore Bird Club's position paper and ideas for submission to the Committee in partnership with Joe Corcoran, President of the Baltimore Bird Club. Both of us are active members of the Hart-Miller Island Friends Committee as well.

The Baltimore Bird Club and Maryland Ornithologic Society's involvement goes back to at least 1983, including bird and other biodiversity studies and counts on the Island. One of our members was on the study team that advised the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in the preparation of the South Cell restoration plan approved in 1998.

I appreciate the selection of the original steering committee (the committee) and have a great deal of respect and appreciation for their service to the community and the expertise that they will bring to this committee, but I think that it would be of great benefit to also include a member who has background in ornithology and natural biodiversity as either a (1) member of the committee or (2) an official advisor to the committee having input and a vote in all decisions made by the Committee.

To that end, I believe that Joe Corcoran would be best served to fill this role and would respectfully request that you give it full and immediate consideration. I know that he would be happy to fill this most important role in assisting to develop the CBA.

Mr. Corcoran has had extensive involvement with Hart-Miller Island in his work with the Friends group and as President of the Baltimore Bird Club. He has worked closely with and well-known to the HMI Oversight Committee. He is extremely knowledgeable in all things related to birds, their behavior and habitat and would provide a depth of knowledge to the committee regarding this subject that would be invaluable in the design of the agreement.

I would like to bring this matter up for consideration at tonight's meeting. Thank you for your consideration.

**Comments:**

Convert Mudflats to flooded wetlands starting at the Back River Bridge. Create a series of wetlands to filter out the pollutants and trash from Herring Run and Stemmers Run. Include an automated trash collection system.

**Comments:**

Take Core samples from Back River to evaluate sediments for disposal at Hart and Miller Island.

Dredging of Sue Creek, Back River, muddy gut, Hog Pen Creek, Bear Creek. The purpose to make the channels deep enough to allow boat traffic to move and not stir up sediment.

**Comments:**

Create a wetland at the Back River Disposal Plant to capture pollutants and sediment from the plant during rain events. The "Head Works" do not work adequately to capture sediment.

**Comments:**

Dredge Sue Creek to reduce turbidity that will enhance the water quality needed to expand and support healthy SAV populations and ecosystem resiliency.

August 23, 2024

**Comments:**

can you send me a map showing where the dredging for TPA is going to occur? thank you

**Comments:**

1. Playground at Veteran's Field in Fort Howard.
2. Sand volleyball court at Fort Howard Park or another local park.
3. Streetscape- lampposts (with banners that businesses can sponsor), small trees, large flower pots to increase aesthetics of main road-North Point Rd.

August 26, 2024

**Comments:**

The Vast Majority of the residents of Back River Neck are adamantly opposed to reopening Hart and Miller Island to dredge spoils from Trade Point Atlantic or any other source. Put the dredge spoils over by TPA where the risk of contamination is offset by the benefits of investment and Jobs. Essex and Middle River are taking all the risks of containment failure and contamination and reaping NONE of the long term benefits from the investment. I took pictures of the N/W site of the Dike at Hart and Miller island where the sand dike is failing.

Where are all these comments posted for public review as was promised at the August 7th meeting at Sparrows point H.S.

**Comments:**

I have been told that TPA has stopped taking treated sewage water from the Back River Disposal plant. Thereby increasing the nitrogen and phosphorus loading into Back River by 25% causing large algae blooms.

Has TPA stopped taking the water from Back River.

**Comments:**

Just NO! Made a mess the first time and yes, I was boating out there back then. Then they decided to raise the berms, add more dredge material and make a mess a 2nd time, I can remember riding by in my whaler and seeing brown water being discharged from a large pipe as they dewatered. And now they want to do it a third time. NO!!!

August 29, 2024

**Comments:**

I have lived on the Holly Neck Peninsula since 1990 and this was to be a closed issue in 2009. Since we are directly across from HM, I would worry quite a bit that this dredging material is very polluted and would damage the surrounding communities (if it is air-bound) and ruin our waters for boating and swimming.

August 30, 2024

**Comments:**

I live across the water from Hart and Miller island. My family is opposed to the dumping of PCBs, metals, and oil and grease, asbestos from the demolition of Beth Steel into a park where Baltimore county residents come to swim camp bike crab and fish. The demolition waste from the plant was dumped into open pits and was illegally disposed of against EPA regulation. The Bear Creek sediments off of Riverside Drive are now a Superfund site and exposing your community to this waste is irresponsible and immoral. We didn't choose to live on Bear Creek or old road bay for a reason and now your dumping this in our back yard where my children are going up. We can't believe we have to fight this tragic agenda.

**Comments:**

I feel that if there is another site where the contaminated dredged materials can be dumped that's what need to be done. HMI has been abused over the years for dumping and yet they want to continue dumping. This area is a State Park and should be left alone at this stage. The upper area where the dumping would go on is full of wildlife and should be considered a Sanctuary. It will leach into the bay where people enjoy water sports and MOST will NOT even know what's being dumped there. The State has let the "tower" deteriorate as well as the pier where people can let others out to go on the beach areas then anchor out before going ashore. If the dumping does go forward SIGNS need to be POSTED all around the island and let people know this could be hazardous to their health! My husband about a year ago tested using a test kit from Blue Water and tested at the Southside close to Pleasure Island and it tested POSITIVE. The NORTH CELL CLOSURE in 2009 was to establish wildlife habitats and managed public recreational and educational facilities. Each time groups want to open and close HMI it always is a "private group" to make the decisions! Also in closing the online "meeting" was terrible! I find it difficult a public open meeting place can't be found. Oh, I almost forgot...Tradepoint should bear the COST and not the taxpayers!

I hope this gets read and shared but I feel it'll meet the trash can first!

**Comments:**

As noted in the introduction, disposal of dredge material was terminated after many years. It has now become a habitat for a variety of birds and animals as well as a place where communities close to the island get a great deal of recreational pleasure.

If this accelerated dredging that Tradepoint is suggesting has benefit for these local communities, they are wrong. It's just a way for Tradepoint to make more money at the expense of the local communities.

I strongly suggest that the steering committee needs to find an alternative location to dump the dredge

that will impact far fewer communities.

People in the communities close to Hartmiller Island have dealt with this dredge remediation for many, many years. It's time for some other communities elsewhere to take on some responsibility and it's up to this steering committee to see that they do.

**Comments:**

Provide funds for the North Point-Edgemere Volunteer Fire Dept to build a pier on the Back River, probably next to the Shaws Discovery pier, for their fire boat. Include funds for a shed or maintenance building to store extra supplies and safety equipment as well as materials needed to maintain the boat and pier.

September 2, 2024

**Comments:**

Having lived through the multiple assurances of the original dredging, I see no reason to believe any promises made on how anyone but the port and the dredging company will have any benefit from this project. There were many promises the first time - only so high a dike that was raised multiple times - restoration for nesting bird in both cells - a park for all to visit. The north cell was never restored, the south cell was created for birds but there was suddenly no money to keep the habitat as planned. The state and port authorities just walked away from all the promises due to "money concerns"

Poplar Island is the current open dredge area and should be the one to take the new port dredge. Let the companies that will benefit pay to have it shipped down the bay. Also, stop saying this is related to the Key Bridge as this legislation was pre collapse.

Do not reopen Hart Miller.

September 3, 2024

**Comments:**

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September 16, 2024

**Comments:** Comprised of 35 specially-trained response personnel, two Marine Fire/Rescue vessels, three shallow draft boats, one inflatable craft and several land-based response/towing vehicles, the Community Fire Department of Bowleys Quarters and Vicinity (BQVFD), operates the largest Marine Emergency Team in the Upper Bay area; Marine Emergency Team 21 (MET21).

MET21 is one of few teams north of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge that can make year-round emergency responses in any weather condition. Team personnel are trained for all worst-case scenarios that they may be faced with. Common responses include vessel fires, collisions, hazardous material incidents and medical emergencies. Two of our vessels can provide Basic Life Support and when staffed by EMT's are essentially ambulances on the water. MET21 receives its distress calls through Baltimore County's 911 dispatch, direct from the United States Coast Guard (USCG), or through Marine VHF channel 16.

MET21's primary response area covers 90 square miles of open water in the upper Chesapeake Bay, an area larger than the entire city of Boston. This includes all of Baltimore Counties waterfront communities, various popular boating locations, Hart-Miller Island, Poole's Island, and the channels leading to and from the Eastern Shore. Secondary responses include mutual aid requests by Harford, Anne Arundel, Kent, Queens Anne's, and Cecil Counties as well as Baltimore City. The team also often works with many commercial tow vessels in the area. Highly trained personnel as well as well-designed and maintained facilities and vessels are a critical component to our success.

The BQVFD is formally requesting that the Hart Miller Island Steering Committee allocate funding to improve water safety infrastructure and emergency response. Completing the park at the island will

greatly increase the need for emergency resources and personnel. Funding will be primarily utilized to construct an annex on our new station to serve as the headquarters of Marine Emergency Team 21, an aquatic rescue training facility, a Rescue Swimmer fitness center, and indoor storage for our response vessels to be ready to respond 365 days a year. The BQVFD is looking to break ground on the new facility within the next 2 years. In addition, funding can be utilized in matching state grants received from the Waterway Improvement Fund in replacing an aging rescue boat and developing an easement at the CP Crane park site for the installation of a public safety pier for emergency response vessels. The combined cost of improving the infrastructure to continue and improve our maritime response is 2.4 million dollars.

The BQVFD would like to thank the Steering Committee for their dedication to the waterfront communities and for allocating the community benefit funding to the appropriate projects to improve the safety of Baltimore County's waterways.