



FRONT STREET
SHIPYARD

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Belfast City Council
Belfast Planning Board
City of Belfast
131 Church Street
Belfast, ME 04915

November 18, 2025

RE: Purchase of Front Street Shipyard by Safe Harbor Marine

Dear Belfast City Council and Planning Board Members:

I'm pleased to share important news regarding the pending sale of all Front Street Shipyard (FSS) real property, buildings, improvements, equipment, and inventory to Safe Harbor Marinas. The transaction is scheduled to close in January 2026. For my partners and me, this marks a bittersweet milestone, but we believe the time is right for this transition.

In seeking the right group to take over the business we've carefully built over the past 14 years, we looked for a company with both the financial strength and technical capability to ensure a seamless transition for our customers, employees, and community. The agreement we've arranged is a cash purchase—no commercial bank financing or mortgage—to a well-established business in the marina- and boatyard-management industry.

While there will inevitably be some internal operational changes following the sale, we expect very few public-facing changes. As you know, absolutely nothing will change regarding the public rights of use of the Harbor Walk and cross easements between FSS and the City. This is all reflected in the Comprehensive Master Agreement and related deeds that are filed in the registry. From our perspective, the Harbor Walk has been a positive addition to the City, and the public has been respectful of the FSS property and our customers' vessels.

As for the use of the Harbor, things will look and run largely as they do now. The State of Maine is expected to soon reissue the same Submerged Land leases; the FSS piers, docks and floats have not changed at all in the pending lease approval. We have enjoyed a very productive relationship with the other harbor users, boatyards, and the Harbor Master, and we will continue to be an active, supportive part of the waterfront community.

Most importantly, I will continue working full-time in my current position at Front Street Shipyard for at least the next three years, having agreed to sign a private employment agreement at the sale closing. This structure is both typical for a sale of this kind and essential for my partners and me, as we want the next owner to have key personnel fully prepared to oversee operations when I eventually retire. I'm confident that our dedicated, professional employees will choose to stay on as well. Our customers should expect the same high quality of work, attention, and support that my team and I have always delivered to them.



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Thank you for your support in the transfer of the contract zoning agreement. Please let me know if you have other questions. I will be present at both the Planning Board and Council meetings in November and December 2025.

Best Regards,

JB Turner
President and General Manager
Front Street Shipyard