

Carol Ann Desiderio

From: Mack Keating <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 2:39 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio
Subject: Re: Letter of Support for Docket 364-25 – Malden High School Boathouse

Dear Members of the Malden City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Docket 364-25, particularly the funding for a permanent boathouse as part of the Malden River Works project.

I am a recent graduate of Malden High School and a former member and captain of the Malden High rowing program. For my first three years on the team, we practiced four days a week out of the Malden boathouse. Its location along the bike path made the sport accessible to students without cars, allowed teammates to travel together after school, and provided a consistent home base where we hosted regattas and practiced alongside other teams.

This past year, we lost access to the boathouse. Our water practices were reduced to only two days a week, with the rest held on land. The impact was immediate: limited water time made it difficult to build team cohesion and translate training into performance. Practices also became far less accessible. What had once been a short walk became over an hour on foot.

I was the only team member with a car and license, and I drove teammates to every water practice. If I could not attend, no one could. That is not a fair or sustainable model, nor one that supports equity or long-term program stability.

While we are grateful to Medford High School for temporary access to their facilities, this arrangement is not viable long term—especially now that I have graduated. Despite these challenges, our team reached the state tournament for the first time in four years, placing 8th overall.

A permanent boathouse would expand access, strengthen student opportunity, and ensure future Malden students can benefit from rowing on their own river. I strongly urge you to support Docket 364-25.

Respectfully,
Mack Keating
374 Lebanon St, Malden, MA

On Tue, Jan 13, 2026, 1:43 PM Carol Ann Desiderio <cdesiderio@cityofmalden.org> wrote:

Hi Mack,

Pursuant to Council Rules, comments intended to be read into the record during public comment are required to be two minutes for spoken word, or 300 words if written. Additionally, a home address or street and city must be indicated in the signature. If you wish this letter to go on the record, please resubmit accordingly.

Thank you,

Carol Ann Desiderio

From: Garhart-Smith, Eden E [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 2:07 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio
Subject: Letter of Support for Docket 364-25 – Malden High School Boathouse (shorter version)

Dear Members of the Malden City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for Docket 364-25 and the funding to construct a boathouse as part of the Malden River Works project.

I am a Malden resident and the parent of a junior at Malden High School who rows for the school team. Over the past year, the lack of a boathouse has made participation far more difficult. The team has had no permanent home base, and boats have been stored off-site and outdoors under temporary arrangements.

This year, Medford High School generously allowed Malden students to use their boats, and a Malden senior often transported the team. While we are grateful, this is not a sustainable solution and adds unnecessary challenges for students, families, and coaches.

The Malden River is a tremendous asset to our city. When Malden High previously had a nearby home base, it greatly strengthened the program. Visiting teams often remark how fortunate Malden students are to train on a river rather than a pond. Regattas also bring visiting families who support local businesses, benefiting the broader community.

Most importantly, our boats need a permanent, secure home. A dedicated boathouse is essential for protecting equipment and ensuring the long-term success of the rowing program.

This project is an investment in future generations of Malden students and equitable access to athletics. I strongly urge you to support Docket 364-25.

Respectfully,

Eden Garhart Smith
16 Corey Road
Malden, MA

Carol Ann Desiderio

From: Yawen Zuo <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 4:04 PM
To: Carol Ann Desiderio
Subject: Support for Docket 364-25

Dear Members of the City Council,

I am writing this email in support of Docket 364-25 which would fund the Malden River Works Project, including a boathouse on the Malden River. I am a current Malden High junior on the rowing team, and I have experienced both having a home boathouse and not having one.

In my freshman year, I was able to independently get to the boathouse for practices all week as it was only a 20 minute walk from Malden High. It also served as meeting points for Malden River Works events. Then, in my sophomore year, we lost access to the Malden boathouse. It took weeks into the season to organize a place where we could practice on the water, and we could only practice on the water 2 days a week, and sometimes less due to the weather. Another issue for the team was transportation to the Medford facility. Most of our team last year had no access to a car and walking or taking the bus took about an hour, so we relied on one senior that could drive. If he was not able to go, the whole team could not go.

Despite the challenges of not having a closer boathouse, our team has seen growth in our rowing, such as winning scrimmages and placing 8th overall in the state tournament. Having more access to the water would greatly improve the skills of our crew team. Having access to a permanent boathouse would allow Malden students to grow in the sport, rowing at home on the Malden River. Therefore, the support of Docket 364-25 would greatly benefit the Malden community and Malden Crew Team.

Thank you,
Yawen Zuo
115 Coleman St, Malden, MA

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