

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, November 3, 1977

## C.G. seeks station OK

The Coast Guard is applying for a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers to construct a pier at its new station that will be built in Provincetown's West End.

The proposed pier would be supported by piles and timber. The ramp itself would be a concrete strip 1368-feet long and 12-feet wide. At the end of the pier would be a 42- by 72-foot L-shaped extension.

The preliminary judgment of the corps is that no environmental impact is required for construction of the pier. The corps is asking for public comment on the proposal, and asks that anyone interested in commenting write to them by Nov. 21.

The construction of the Coast Guard station, which will be built on the empty lot west of Flyer's boatyard, is scheduled to begin next spring and will take approximately two years. The existing wooden pier would be removed for the construction of the new pier if the plan is approved.

The Coast Guard is now accepting bids

for the construction project.

At a summer meeting with the selectmen, Coast Guard representatives said they hoped no dredging would be necessary to construct the pier.

The Coast Guard originally planned to install a "bleeder" system to maintain water service at the end of the pier during the winter months. This system would have prevented water pipes from freezing by keeping a constant trickle of water going through the pipe at all times.

The Provincetown Water Commission, however, informed the Coast Guard that a bleeder system would waste huge quantities of water. It told the Coast Guard that Provincetown faces a severe water shortage and could not afford to have water wasted.

The Coast Guard abandoned the new system and changed its plans. The proposed pier would use a traditional electric line to prevent freezeups.

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, December 1, 1977

## CG considering wharf

Kenneth Jackson, an Army Corps of Engineers official, said the Coast Guard will be given several weeks to respond to criticism raised by local residents about the proposed pier to be built at the Coast Guard's new West End station.

The corps must give a final yes or no to the Coast Guard's request to demolish Freeman's Wharf and build a concrete pier on pilings approximately 40 feet to the west of Freeman's Wharf.

Opposition has come from two camps. The Massachusetts Historical Commission and members of the local board of selectmen have told the Coast Guard it would be illegal to demolish Freeman's Wharf because it is under review for designation as a nationally registered historic landmark.

The wharf is more than 100 years old and among other things includes ship's spars in its construction.

The other objection comes from West

End residents who fear that the pier, if constructed to the west of Freeman's Wharf, would drastically reduce their use of the beach there and eliminate boat moorings in the area. More than 40 residents signed a petition to this effect.

Jackson said it is not clear whether it would be legal to demolish Freeman's Wharf. He said there are possible solutions to the problem and urged the Coast Guard to meet with historical groups to see if a solution can be found.

Jackson said the historical commission's statement that it would be clearly illegal to remove the pier is "not exactly right," although he conceded that status as a landmark might prevent the Coast Guard from carrying out its plans to demolish the old pier.

Coast Guard officials would not comment this week. They said they are preparing a response to the criticisms. The period allotted for public comment to the Army Corps ended last week.

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, November 17, 1977

# State to CG: save Freeman's Wharf

By Gregory Katz

The Massachusetts Historical Commission is challenging the Coast Guard's right to demolish Freeman's Wharf, the old pier that the Coast Guard plans to remove when it begins construction next spring of its new West End station.

The state commission wrote to the Army Corps of Engineers, which must act on the Coast Guard's request for permission to build a new pier at the site, informing it that the old pier is under consideration for designation as part of a nationally registered district. This designation is different from the proposed local historic district that Town Meeting rejected last month.

The commission said removal of the pier by the federal government would be illegal while the status of the pier is under review. If it is designated as part of a registered district, it may not be removed. The state has okayed the proposal, but final action to make the pier part of a registered district must come from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

When the local historic district study committee proposed a local historic district here, it also proposed making Freeman's Wharf part of the National Register of

Historic Places. This was done to prevent federal intrusion on historic properties. The study committee is defunct, but its proposal may prevent the Coast Guard from removing the pier.

Freeman's Wharf was originally used more than 100 years ago as a fishing pier and railway for Atlantic Coast Fisheries. It is a unique remnant of the days when wharfs were constructed with ship's spars. At one point a single-gauge railway extended the length of the pier.

The Coast Guard has not yet replied to the possibility that it may be forced to leave the old pier on its new station site and take legal responsibility for maintaining it.

Residents are also challenging the Coast Guard's plans for its new pier. More than 40 West End residents signed a petition stating that the proposed location would drastically reduce use of the beach. At a Thursday meeting the conservation commission agreed with them and is drafting a letter to the Coast Guard asking it to reconsider.

Plans call for the new concrete pier, which will be built on concrete pilings, to be situated approximately 40 feet to the

west of Freeman's Wharf. Residents say they will eliminate one-third of the small beach that has long been popular with neighbors. At an August meeting with the selectmen, Coast Guard representatives said they would not do anything to restrict use of the beach.

The conservation commission is asking the Coast Guard to build the new pier as close as possible to Freeman's Wharf. If Freeman's Wharf is removed, they are asking the Coast Guard to build the new pier on the site of Freeman's Wharf.

Coast Guard spokesmen have said the location of the new pier is designed to integrate with traffic flow on the new base. They also said the overall effect on the beach would be positive, and that access would be increased not restricted.

The Coast Guard asked the conservation commission for a nonbinding opinion on the impact of the proposed station. For the most part, the commission endorsed the plan.

The commission is pleased with the plans to build the new pier on pilings without any dredging in the area. It also praised the style of the new buildings, which are designed to blend into the

neighborhood. The use of solar heat and the plans to grow native plants in the area was also appreciated.

The conservation commission noted that the Coast Guard had abandoned its plans for a controversial water "bleeder" system that would have prevented pipes from freezing along the pier by maintaining a constant trickle of water during the winter months. The water commission informed the Coast Guard that this waste of water could not be tolerated. Now the Coast Guard plans to use another method to prevent freeze-ups.

Besides the location of the new pier, the conservation commission made two recommendations. It suggested that the Coast Guard contain all of its runoff water on the station without using the town's drainage system or draining it into the harbor. It also asked that the Coast Guard drill its own wells as a water source for its sprinkler system, instead of using town water.

A copy of the commission's letter was sent to the Army Corps. The corps has asked all citizens interested in commenting on the Coast Guard plans for a new pier to write to the Army Corps by Monday.