

BSI Canal Committee

7/10/2023

After reading my last canal information update of 2 weeks ago, Judy Heneka asked a good question, and I wanted to respond to her question through the BSI news letter so that everyone could be kept up to date.

Her question was:

Why can't we use the lot at the dam where the mirror is?

This one had me stumped for a minute, trying to figure out where a dam might be-- until I realized what she was referring to was the lot across from the lock (which does in fact, have a mirror). --- Judy, if this is not the lot you are referring to, please clarify and I will review as well.

In the meantime, I will answer your question, assuming you were in fact referring to this lot across from the lock.

This lot is a city owned lot and to a certain extent, the city currently uses this lot for just such purposes, but there are problems with this lot, preventing it from being the solution to our problem.

- 1) The lot will be used to stage larger barges, which will be required once what few existing lots are lost to home construction. The problem here is that parking a couple of barges at this lot will effectively block boat traffic coming and going-- both in the rim canal and moving through the lock. I am sure you can visualize the boat gridlock fiasco, once the first barge was docked at this lot.
- 2) The rim canal is very narrow in this area as well, even parking one barge here would also significantly block boat traffic.
- 3) This point is the busiest point in the entire BSI canal system. Of all the intersections within our canal system, this must be the one kept open and flowing as much as possible.

It's a good thought, utilizing this lot at the lock, and I applauded Judy for her efforts, offering us her ideas. This is one we have mulled over any number of times trying to make it work, unfortunately, nothing short of heavy lift sky hooks and stacking barges at this location makes this a plausible site.

Judy has done her part, offering us her thoughts on this problem. I would encourage you to do some thinking as well, --- and offer any ideas you may have. I would love to hear them.

For Now---calm seas, warm breezes, and plenty two-handed fish--

Rick Daugherty, Chairman, BSI Canal Committee