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**Re: Turpentine Dock**

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**From** Chris-Karen Sterner <history19@msn.com>  
**Date** Tue 4/8/2025 4:55 PM  
**To** rjsanvicente@comcast.net <rjsanvicente@comcast.net>  
**Cc** Heather Faust <hfaust@northportfl.gov>

Ms. San Vincente,

Thank you for your email concerning the "turpentine dock". While I am restricted in discussing some of the information concerning the dock due to the Sunshine Law, I can impart some of some of my personal findings and what was discussed during the meetings which took place after the empanelment of the original Historic and Cultural Advisory Board, existing between 2018 and 2022.

My experience in learning about the dock occurred in 2008 was from an individual who had lived in the area in the early 1950s. I was told that this structure existed along the Myakkahatchee Creek and was given the directions to its location. My wife and I made the trek to both, the dock and basin of the still. I took a number of pictures at that time.

I began lobbying the City for the establishment of a board to address historic sites within the city limits (there are several). During this period, I returned to the site in 2011 and 2014 and again took pictures. I continued the pursuit for a board for 10 years until one was created in 2018. I remained on that board until, due to a lack of members and my timing out at two terms, the board was de-activated in 2022. Shortly after the Board was convened in 2018, we were informed that the City was "cleaning up" the Myakkahatchee Greenway. In doing so, they had removed a major portion of the dock, but we (the Board) were told that the timbers were moved to a city maintenance site for storage. I again journeyed to the site to find that, in fact, the dock was pretty much gone. Fortunately, the turpentine still base was still intact (not sure if it remains at this time).

In early 2022, myself and another past member of the board were interviewed by City Commissioners regarding the subject of the importance of having a Historic and Cultural Advisory Board. The current Board was approved and populated in July 2022.

While I can tell you that the historical areas of the City are still being discussed, as I stated at the onset, I am unable to be specific.

To be more affective in your concerns, I would suggest attending a meeting of the Board to voice those concerns. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month in Room 244 of City Hall.

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**From:** Robin J. San Vicente <rjsanvicente@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 7:22 AM  
**To:** harry.klinkhamer@att.net <harry.klinkhamer@att.net>; history19@msn.com <history19@msn.com>  
**Cc:** Chuck English <wmceng798@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** Turpentine Dock

Good Morning Gentlemen,

My background within the City is that I managed Warm Mineral Springs when it was privately owned from 2000 up until 2009. I gained an enormous amount of knowledge on archeological significance and history within our city and county. I have continued to

work on several environmental and historic issues confronting our city as development continues to intrude into areas where they shouldn't, always striving for preservation.

I have been involved with numerous meetings with the city. My latest meeting was with the City Manager, Jerome Fletcher, Alaina Ray (Dev. Ser.), Stephan Kalev (Natural Resources), Tricia Wisner (Public Works) and Chuck English who has an extensive knowledge of the history within our city. At this meeting we discussed several items, one being the **Turpentine Dock**.

Due to the current Myakkahatchee Creek Access Maintenance Plan underway for debris removal, Chuck and I specifically asked about the preservation of what is left of the Turpentine dock and the area where the cooking took place which to this day are scattered remnants. This was extremely important to us in preserving our history and wanted to know the city's position.

The answer we received is that due to the projection of the what is left of the dock into the creek is most likely causing a "slow down" of water flow and possible obstruction so it would have to be removed. Chuck and I were not satisfied with this answer and kept pushing for preservation. After much discussion, it was stated by Alaina Ray that they could carefully remove the dock and store it for future incorporation into a museum.

I felt that since your Committee is currently discussing this item, you needed to be updated and continue to follow-up with the city.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me directly.

Respectfully,

Robin J. San Vicente  
Environmental & Wildlife Consultant  
Community Advocate

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