

## Winnisquam marine to expand storage on Route 106

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By GAIL OBER, LACONIA DAILY SUN

BELMONT — Now that the economy is turning around and boat sales are starting to climb, Ed Crawford, the owner of Winnisquam Marine is building more boat storage along Route 106 and working to recycle the tons of shrink wrap used for boat storage.

Crawford said he has cleared most of the land and will be ready to present his site plan review to the Planning Board in October.

"People spend a lot of money on their boats," said Crawford. "They want to keep them inside."

Crawford said he has four storage facilities in Belmont, Franklin, Sanbornton and Gilford that can hold a total of about 600 boats. He expect to add 140 spots at his new site in Belmont. He has no boat storage at the marina itself, which sits on the Belmont side of the Mosquito Bridge on Lake Winnisquam.

He said that in this latest uptick in the economy, he has sold a large number of pontoon boats, which are stored differently that typical "V-hulled" crafts. He said much of his new storage will be designed for pontoon boats that are stored on racks with long pads.

"We're trying to minimize our use of shrink wrap," he said.

Along with being the owner of the marina, Crawford is also the Chairman of the New Hampshire Marine Trades Association Shrink Wrap Committee. He said that all of the marinas and boats sales companies in the association are working to reduce the amount of shrink wrap they use and to recycle as much of what they do use as possible.

"Right now we're recycling 98 percent of it," he said.

Crawford said that as a marina owner, he considers himself a "shepherd of the water" and has tried to make the environment and the health of the lakes one of his company's priorities.

When he rebuilt his showroom, he said he used some special rain gutters designed to take all storm water runoff and direct it into some water gardens planted in front of the building.

As for shrink wrap recycling, he said the biggest buyer of shrink wrap is Trex Company Inc., which specializes in wood/plastics building products including materials for decks.

Crawford handles all of the recycling of shrink wrap for the Central New Hampshire marinas and said he gathers it three times a year and arranges for it to be stored in Rochester. This past spring, he said, 47 tons of recycled plastics, mostly shrink wrap, were purchased by Trex.

He said he is getting ready for another gathering and the last one this year is usually done in December.

"Marinas usually store it in one bay and just before Christmas, when we are wrapping up for the season, it gets taken away and that last bay is used for storage," he said. "Everyone needs to get the most out of his or her storage space as possible."

Crawford also said that the color of shrink wrap is gradually going from blue to white because, once recycled, blue can only be used to make brown boards, whereas white shrink wrap can be used to make decking of any color.

The new storage lot along Route 106 will be next to First Student properties.

Belmont Town Planner Candace Daigle said Crawford has already come before the Application Review Committee with a tentative site plan. She said that, for the town, working with Crawford and Winnisquam Marine is great because his contractors "do excellent work."

Crawford said he expects the first building to be up by November and the second one to be up by early spring.

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