Meeting Date: April 21, 2016

Agenda Item: 7-A

Report to Town Council

Topic: **Report from Ad Hoc Canal Dredging Committee.**

Recommended Motion: **As determined by Council.**

Summary: **Please see the attached presentation.**

Requested by: **Town Council.**

Approved by: **Ms. Witt, Town Manager**

Ad Hoc Committee

- Terms of Reference
- Scope
- Methodology
- Questionnaire
- Concluding Remarks

Town Council Presentation

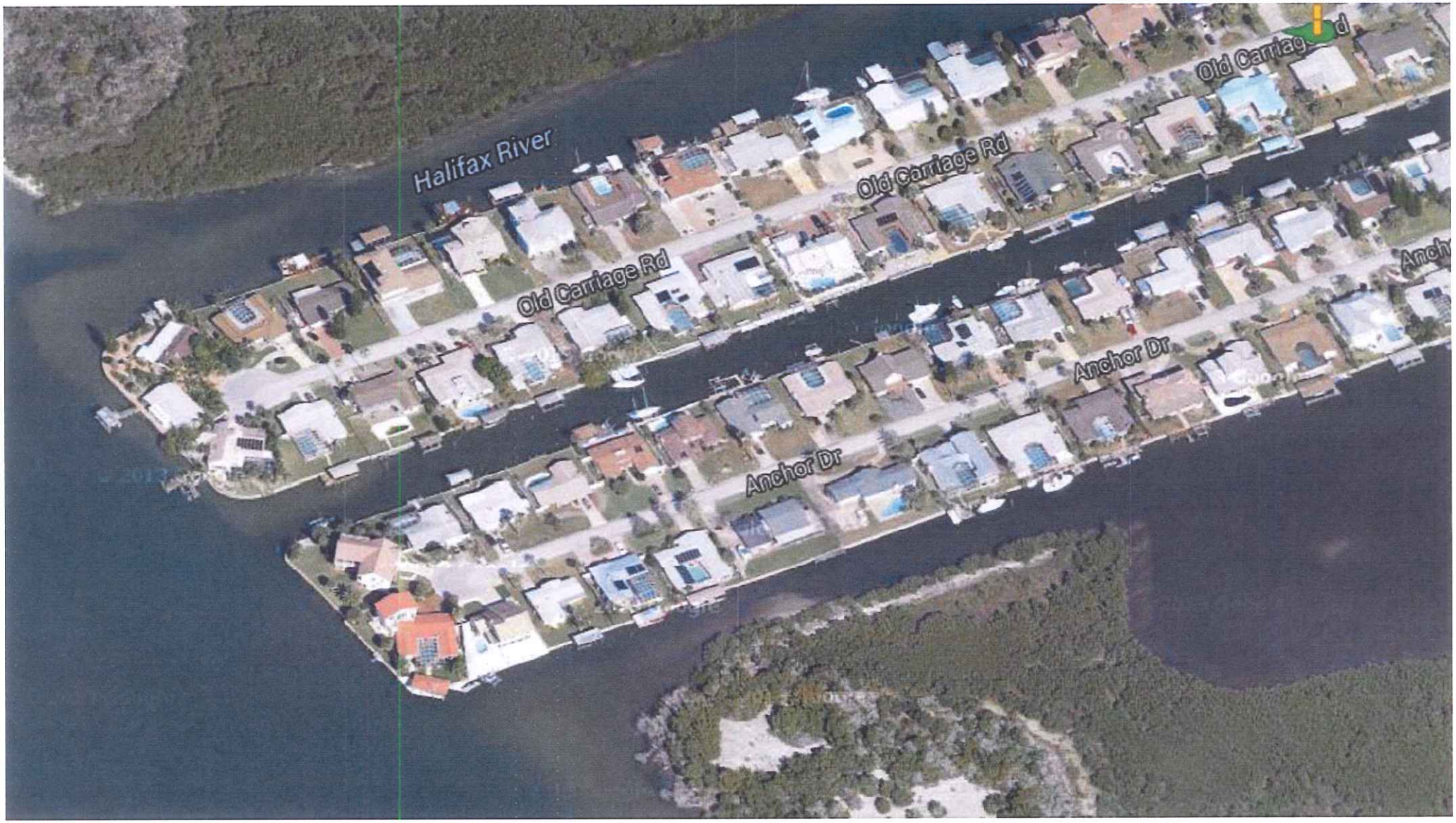
04/21/2016

Terms of Reference

- **Resolution 2015-17 established an Ad Hoc committee to fact-find and determine level of interest for participation in cost-sharing of a canal dredging effort specific to Yacht Haven and Emerald Isle Subdivisions.**
- Members appointed by the Town Council November 19th 2015:
  - Mark Bauerle
  - Milton (Geno) Evans
  - James Mather
  - Brandon Roth
  - Henry Dreifus

Scope

- Developed an understanding and fact-gathering for the challenges based on similar / comparable canal issues and considerations.
- Calibrated a level of interest from stakeholders for the dredging efforts for the Canals adjacent to the Yacht Haven and Emerald Isle subdivisions.
- Developed, distributed and collected a stakeholder questionnaire to the Yacht Haven and Emerald Isle communities.
- Developed fact-finding for the scope for the dredging effort.


Halifax River
Old Carriage Rd
Old Carriage Rd
Old Carriage Rd
Anchor Dr
Anchor Dr

Methodology & Questionnaire

- Team met to review the scope, prior history and develop a questionnaire which was distributed early March 2016.
- Reviewed other representative Florida community canal challenges and resolutions.
- 82 questionnaires were distributed; 39 responses received (48% response rate).
- Results aggregated and summarized.

This survey is being conducted by the Ad Hoc Committee of the Town Council of the Town of Ponce Inlet. The purpose of the survey is to obtain your input as a part of fact finding regarding concerns of the canals that surround the Yacht Haven and Emerald Isle Subdivisions. Your input is important to help provide an understanding of the challenges and approaches to improve the community. Please respond no later than **March 6th**. Thank you for making the time to share your insights on behalf of the community.

1. How long have you owned your home in the Yacht Haven / Emerald Isle Subdivisions? ____ Years
2. What were the primary reasons for choosing your home in the Yacht Haven or Emerald Isle Subdivision? _____
3. When you purchased your home, did you receive documents showing ownership or rights to the canal adjacent to your home? ☐ Yes ☐ No
   -What is you understanding of ownership of the waterway adjacent to your home? _____
4. Do your keep a boat in the water adjacent to your home?
   -If no, why? _____
5. When using your boat, do you experience problems navigatir home?
   -If yes, how long have these problems existed? _____
   -Please describe the problems that exist: _____
   -Do you have photographs that include areas of difficulty, past issues or other concerns involving the waterways adjacent to y
6. How important is it to address these issues for personal e enjoyment of your community or to protect the value of your h
   -Please Explain: _____
7. How important is it for the Town of Ponce Inlet to create and implement a regular maintenance program to address these issues? _____
8. Are you, as a resident of the Yacht Haven and Emerald Isle Subdivisions, willing to share in the cost of an initial solution and a subsequent maintenance program? ☐ Yes ☐ No
9. Do you have any additional information that would be helpful in the research or information gathering of the committee in regards to the waterways / canals adjacent to your home? _____

PROPERTY OWNER: _____

PROPERTY ADDRESS: _____

Please return by March 6th using one of the methods below:

-email:
JimMather.FL@gmail.com

-Fax: (386) 304-3308

-Dropbox on the porch:
120 Old Carriage Road
Ponce Inlet, FL 32127

See attached for full questionnaire

02252016_Dredging Committee_Survey-Final

Questionnaire Summary (n=39)

How Long Lived in Yacht Haven/ Emerald Isle			15.24		Years
Primary Reason: Because of Water/Boating/Canal			35.00		90%
Do you have now or recently had a boat at your home?			33.00		85%
Problems navigating/aware of canal problems?			30.00		77%
Do you think it is important for the Town to address canal?			35.00		90%
Concerns over home value/impacting use of boating.			33.00		85%
Cost Share Considerations	Willing to Share in the Cost		15.00		**38%**
	Not Willing to Share in the Cost		9.00	26%	23%
	Town Responsibility	**64%**	1.00		3%
	Depends on Cost		14.00		36%

100%

Select Questionnaire Responses

[All questionnaire responses are available for review]

- 90% (35) indicated that they moved to their residence because of the proximity to access the water, boating or the canal.
- 85% (33) currently own or recently have owned a boat.
- 82% (32) would be willing to consider to share in the cost *depending on the amount* for resolving the canal issues.
- 80% (31) have concerns over not being able to use the canals for boating.
- 77% (30) have experienced or aware of the problems navigating the canals.
- 90% (35) believe it is important for the Town to address these issues.

Representative Comments/Questionnaire Feedback

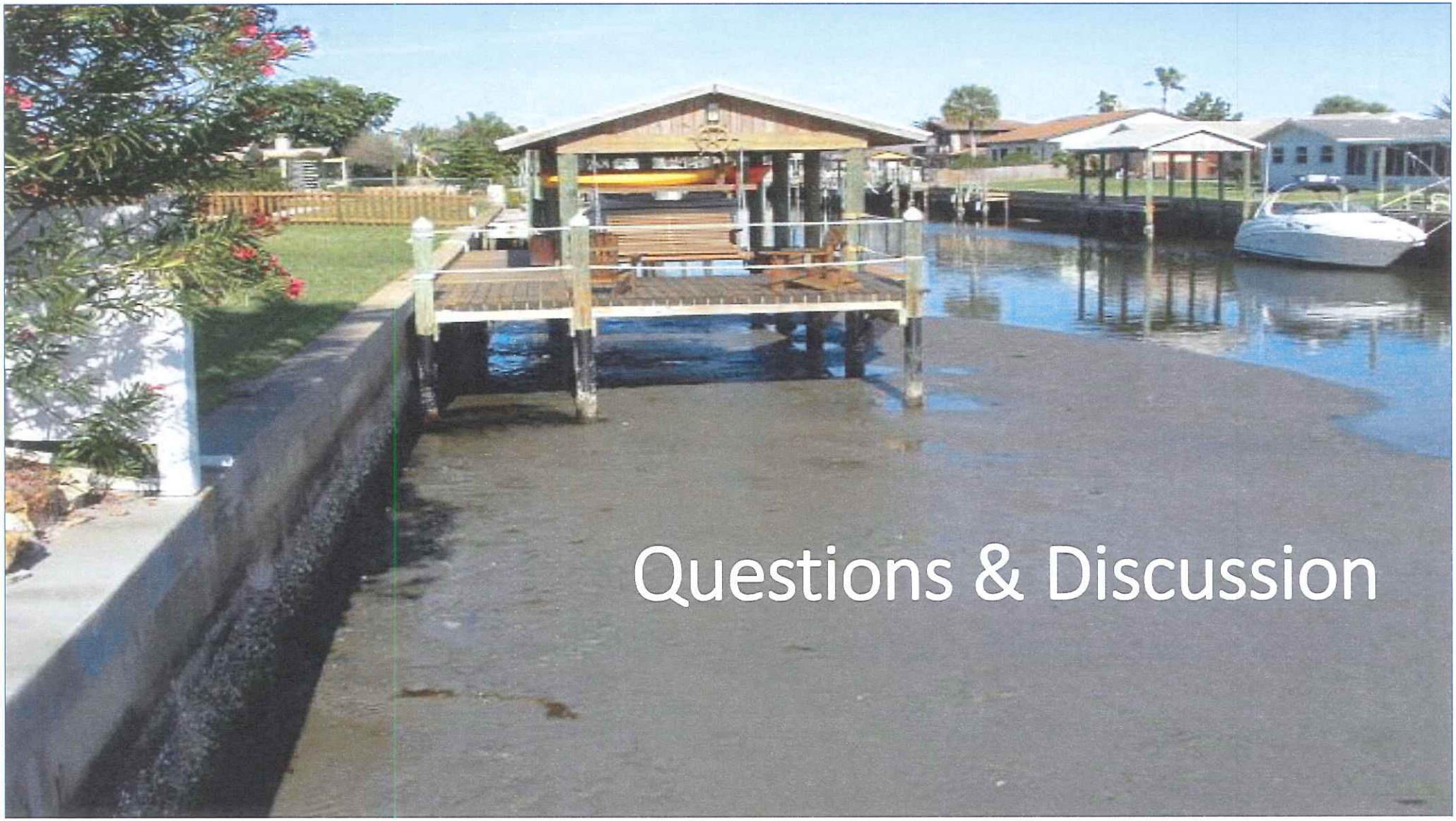
- The majority of the concerns could be addressed if the mouths of the canals were dredged.
- The Town Storm drains flow into the canals and have contributed to "poor tidal flow", creating unhealthy water for sea life and humans.
- The Town should try to take advantage of funding sources from the Federal, State and County governments to address the canal dredging issue.
- Creating a "Slow Zone" near the canals would reduce the amount of silt being disturbed and settling in the canal mouths.
- More than 90% of the Canal traffic on the North side is from non residents using the waterways.
- Dredging the mouths of the canals will open the flow up to help clean and condition them.

Canal Dredging Considerations

- Ad Hoc Committee reviewed other Florida canal-community situations including New Smyrna Beach, South Daytona, Matanzas, Oak Hill, Edgewater, Rose Bay, etc.
- There are significant funding resources available. South Daytona and New Smyrna Beach are regularly benefitting from grants and reimbursement resources for improving their canals/waterways/access.
- Major grant/sources can be applied for and are specifically available for this purpose – and may be applicable for use. Dredging can be 75% reimbursed via a Federal Program administered by the State of Florida. This grant could be applied for and included as early as the next Florida Inland Navigational District (F.I.N.D.) panned major dredge of Ponce Inlet, scheduled for 2017 by the US Army Corps of Engineers.
- The Town of Ponce Inlet will need to aver ownership of the canals for any type of dredging permit.

Concluding Observations

- We learned a lot and appreciate the scope, complexities and challenges involved in addressing the issue of the Canals.
- The steps taken for Emerald Isle and Yacht Haven can help to set a course and path for the Town to address all the canals and waterways around the community to maintain and preserve our ecosystem and quality of the environment.
- The Ad Hoc committee members are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the improvement of Ponce Inlet.


Questions & Discussion

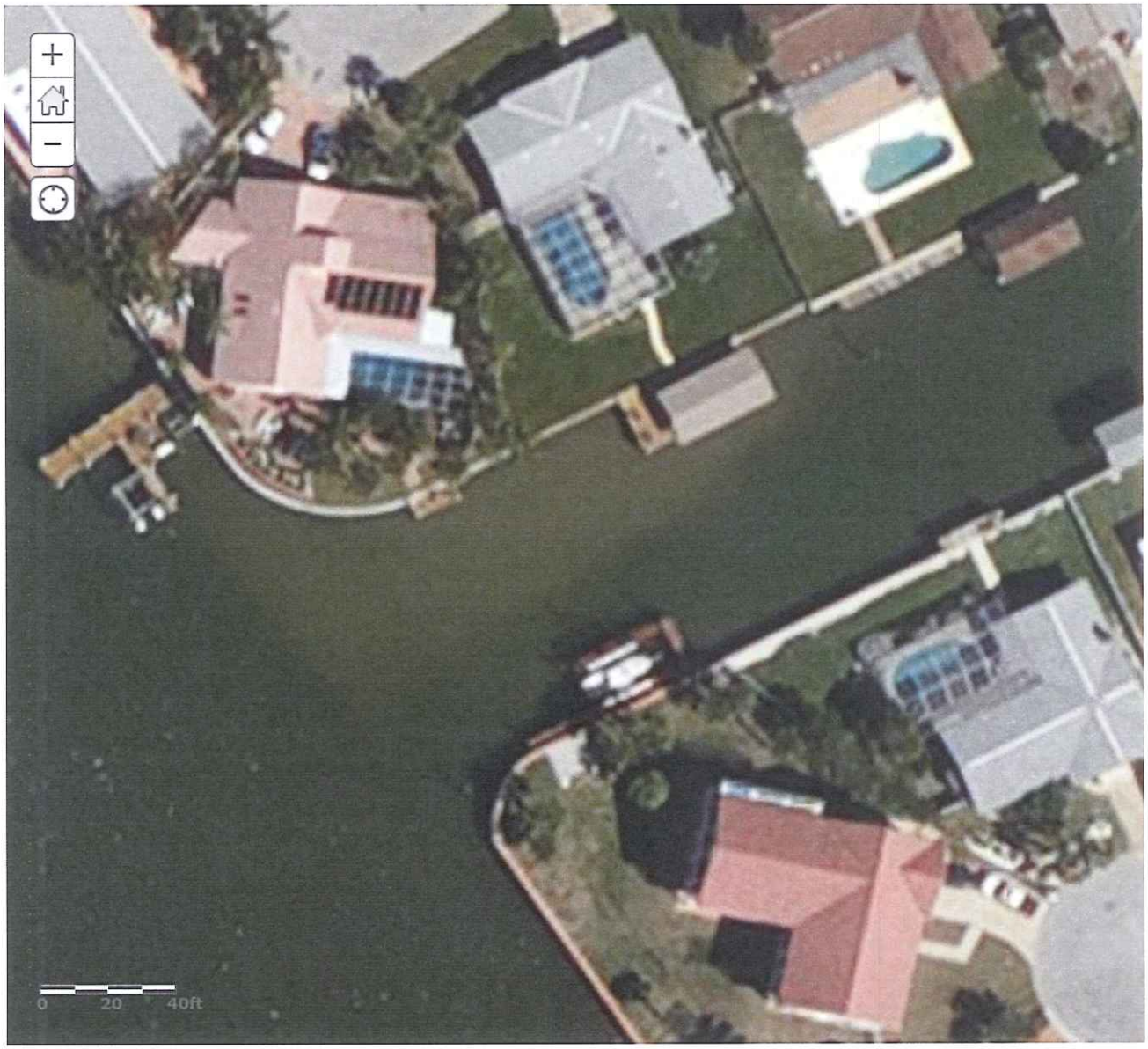
POWERED BY esri
DigitalGlobe, Microsoft
0 100 200ft

orthern Canal Entrance

isible Imagery

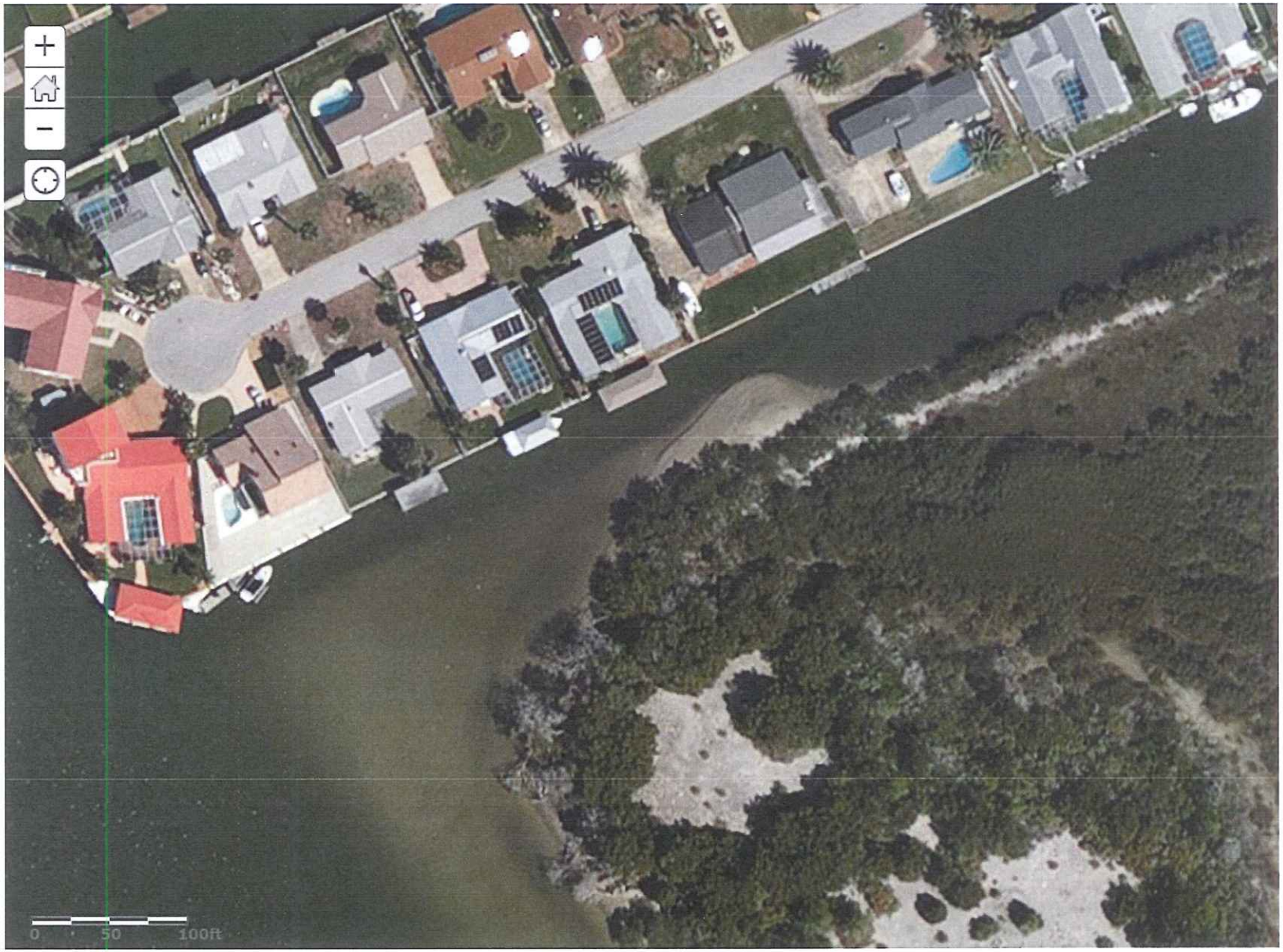
· Canal

· Imagery



ıern Canal

e Imagery



stricted – Northern
ıto Wilbur Bay

Imagery

rn Canal – *flow*
ed to/from
ation area

Imagery

Candlewood Ln
dlewood Ln
S Peninsula Dr
Old Carriage Rd
Old Carriage Rd
Anchor Dr
Halifax River
Halifax River