

TMI's Appy VI: An Electric Boat for a Traditional Camp!



To an AMC Three Mile Island camper, there is no more wonderful sight than the Appy heading towards the dock at Shep's to pick up campers on a summer Saturday or for the beginning of a fall weekend. And no sadder sight than the last glance back at the island from the Appy as it pulls away the following Saturday or at the end of a weekend, after peaceful sleep in the cabins, swims in the lake, and meals full of fellowship and laughter on the Main House porch. The Appy has an emotional resonance for campers beyond its role in simply getting them to and from the island itself.

Now, a new Appy is under construction. And this time it's electric!

WHAT IS THE STORY WITH THE CURRENT BOAT, THE APPY V?

- The Appy is named for the Appalachian Mountain Club. Three Mile Island has been an AMC property for over 120 years, with five Appys in the camp's history.
- The Appy V was built in 1980. It is a durable launch, thankfully still in good shape. However, we anticipate the future need for significant maintenance repairs and replacement.
- The Appy V uses approximately 600 gallons of gasoline per year, generating 12,000 pounds of CO₂. Gas for the boats is the camp's biggest use of fossil fuels, creating 35-45% of our carbon footprint.
- The Appy V's engine is loud and fueled by gasoline which produces carbon emissions. Its bulk and design create a large wake which contributes to erosion.
- Moving from gasoline to electric will significantly reduce our impact on the health of the lake and the environment.

WHAT IS THE NEW BOAT, THE APPY VI?

- Appy VI was begun in 2006 as a collaborative effort between Doug Zurn of Zurn Yacht Design, in Marblehead, and Mark Lindsay, co-owner of Boston BoatWorks. Mark was a former Three Mile Island Camp committee chair and a camper who taught sailing and helped staff and Croo maintain the boats. Mark and Doug spent considerable years together combining their talents on custom and production builds and they developed a meaningful working relationship with mutual respect. Appy VI was Mark's brainchild, and he was preparing to build her when he unexpectedly passed in the fall of 2019.
- The Appy VI was designed by Doug Zurn with the detailed and specific needs of the island in mind: to be highly stable, low-maintenance, and capable of numerous round trips per day on a six-hour charge.
- Combining classic lines with innovative technology, Torqeedo electric propulsion, and a slippery hull form, as well as less weight and less drag, means the launch will be highly energy efficient.
- The Appy VI's electric motor will be quiet and the hull will create a very small wake. Campers riding on the boat will be able to talk to friends and hear the waves and the loons. And there will be ample room for hand baggage!



Appy VI specifications – rendering above

loa: 30' 2"

beam: max: 9' 2"

draft: 2' 3"

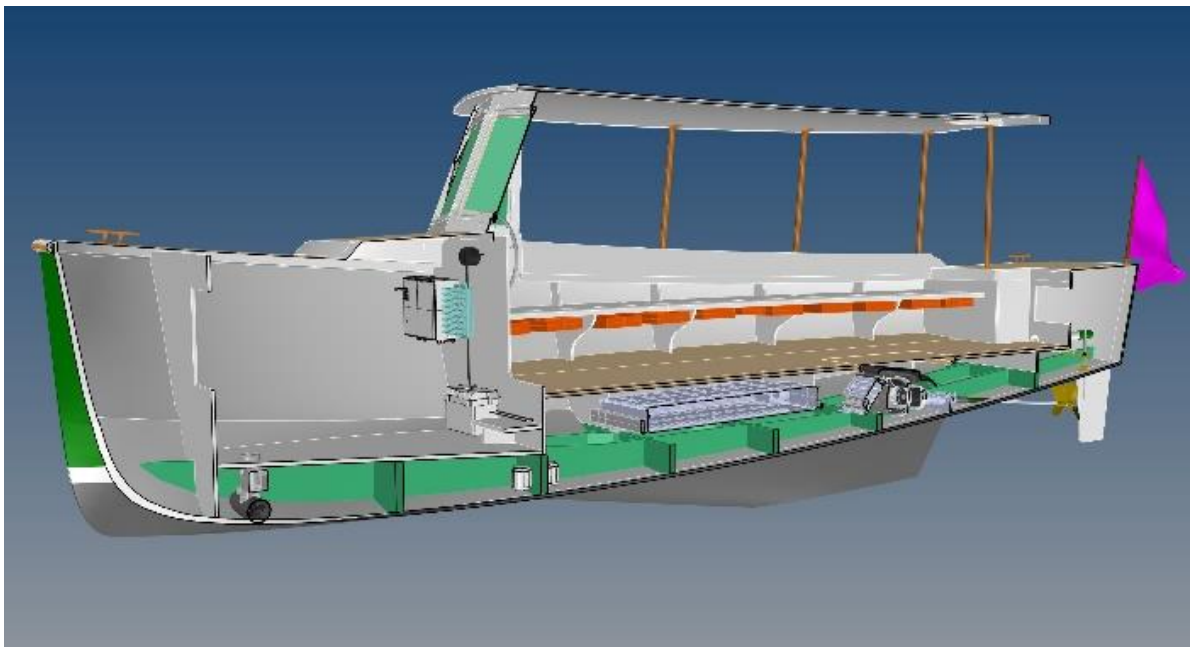
capacity: 25 passengers

WHY AN ALL ELECTRIC LAUNCH NOW?

- Achieving “Net Zero” carbon emissions by 2050 is a goal for the AMC and TMI. To achieve this status requires that the total carbon emitted to the atmosphere by a home or institution is offset by the total carbon removed from the atmosphere.
- Rising gas prices increasingly make electricity, especially when provided from solar power, financially preferable. When an organization like the AMC begins to figure in the “cost of carbon” (meaning the cost to offset environmental damage) fossil fuels become less and less economical.
- The initial phase of fundraising for Appy VI has concluded and donations to complete the boat can be made now. As the TMI Camp Committee’s NET zero plan states, “The timing for buying Appy VI and the electric infrastructure to support recharging should be done when the money and opportunity present themselves.”

The Design Process

- Any new launch that TMI buys must be custom built to safely accommodate 25 passengers, while also being able to fit in the TMI launch house.
- Doug Zurn has completed the design and hydrodynamic computer modeling has been done. The boat is projected to meet all TMI performance criteria. Marty Lindsay’s generous lead donation is funding Marblehead boatbuilder Bruce Dyson, one of Mark’s closest friends, who started building the hull and deck in 2022, with a Phase One completion date of June, 2023. Boston BoatWorks is ready, willing and able to take those components, once completed, and finish the boat at their facility in Charlestown. We expect Appy VI to be “the Appy” in the summer of 2024.
- The boat will be fueled through electricity, fully offset by the camp’s solar panels at AMC’s Cardigan Lodge, in NH. It should be largely maintenance free, simple to drive and handle.



Cost and Construction Schedule

- In preparing a Construction Agreement, the camp's volunteer leadership with the help of Bruce Dyson and Boston BoatWorks put together a careful cost estimate. In May 2022, the total cost of the project was estimated to be approximately \$480,000. The fundraising campaign goal of \$550,000 accounts for other project costs and the possibility of cost overruns, inflation and other miscellaneous expenses.
- We expect that the construction could be completed in the fall of 2023. However, this schedule will depend on fundraising to ensure that all costs are covered before completion of the launch. If all goes as planned, Appy VI will be "the Appy" in May 2024.
- **No monies from TMI operating or reserve accounts, or the AMC will be used to fund the Appy VI. All monies are expected to be raised through generous donations from Mark Lindsay's family and friends and the TMI community.**

To make email inquiries about donating to the project or the boat in general, please use appyvi@3mile.org.



Images from February 15, 2024