

September 12, 2022

Dear Mayor Olerud, Haines Borough Assembly Members, and Borough Manager Kreitzer,

We would like to express our concern with the Resolution authorizing the Borough Manager to execute a contract with Turnagain Marine Construction, for the Progressive Design-Build of the Lutak Dock Replacement Project that is before you on Tuesday, September 13, 2022. Again, it appears the Assembly is moving forward on the Lutak Dock project without the promised public informational meetings and opportunities for the public to share their feedback with you after having a chance to review the presented information.

This past spring many residents at Lutak signed a letter to the Assembly that said: “We are residents/property owners/seasonal residents along Lutak Road and Lutak Spur Road and we would like to express our concern with the Borough moving forward with Lutak Dock Phase 3 without public meetings. In the July 1, 2021 CVN the following quote appears in an article entitled “Public remains divided about use of Lutak Dock”:

“My take-away from the town hall was that there’s a lot of public support for rehabilitating the dock for existing freight purposes, but if anything above that is going to be done, we need more specifics, more cost estimates and a much greater public conversation,” Mayor Douglas Olerud said in an interview Tuesday.

In the spring, we requested that you schedule public meetings to allow the community and those who would be impacted to learn more about Phase 3 and what is being planned and to be able to share their thoughts before funding or contracting for further design work occurred. However, the Assembly moved forward to secure funding for the dock. During spring 2022 Assembly meetings the public was told that there would be plenty of open meetings where information about the dock project and the plans for the project would be shared with the public before design work was done. It is clear this hasn’t happened.

Reading the information packet for borough assembly members and learning about information provided on the field trip with the prospective contractor, we now are realizing that the contract referred to in the Resolution includes components of a new plan that far exceed the previously proposed phases of the dock. We can’t find that information on the Borough’s website or in the Borough Assembly packet but understand it was shared with the Assembly on a field trip with the vendor. We have not heard of any meetings where this information was shared with the public and where public input was allowed. Shouldn’t the public be aware of what is being planned before the Borough contracts to develop those plans?

The RFP response from Turnagain does say that “utilizing a full 700-foot bulkhead dock approach, Turnagain will have the ability to develop a docking face that has multiple barge access points in the form of notches”.... and that “it will have multiple ramp locations...and be set up to accept multiple barges at any given time.” All of this sounds like much more than is

needed to provide for the needs of our community the public expressed interest in when Zoom Town Hall meetings were first held.

We believe decisions about the Lutak Dock are major decisions for our community and that they have huge implications that should be thoroughly reviewed and discussed in public with many open meetings that allow community input.

Since this project began, Mayor Olerud and the Assembly have promised there would be an open, transparent process with LOTS of opportunity for the public to learn about the project and weigh in with their input. This has not happened. **We request you take NO ACTION on this resolution until a thorough public process has been followed, allowing the community and those who would be impacted to share their thoughts so that whatever the Borough agrees to in a contract for the Lutak Dock project is what the majority of the community wants.**

As residents and property owners along Lutak Road and Lutak Spur Road we thank you for your consideration of our request and sincerely hope you will first inform the community about the project BEFORE entering into a contract for design build services.

Sincerely,

Tim McDonough and Ann Myren
Richard and Brigitte Buck
Frank and Ramona Holmes
Crystal Badgley
Vance and Jamie Grubb
Jon and Joy Graves
Tom McGuire
Dick and Julie Folta
Greg and Veni Folta
Cori Stennett and Mandy Reigle
Molly Smith and Suzanne Blue Star Boy
Jim Asper and Bridget Smith
Keith and Jan Levy
Carson and Naomi Buck
Ron Huitger
Erin Williams
Marlena and Gary Saupe