

September 13, 2022

Dear Mayor and Assembly Members,

I am forced by circumstances to offer up one of the essential questions that lies at the core of our very existence:

Ehhh, What's up, dock?

And with it, the reminder: life is entirely too serious to be taken too seriously.

That said...

As a taxpaying property owner in the Haines Borough and longtime Alaskan, I have always valued transparency in the public process. This seems to be sorely lacking in the handling of this dock project—not in minor but deeply systemic ways. I realize there are differences of opinion about what's good for Haines, more development or less, but this isn't that. The misleading and clandestine (not too strong a word) shepherding of this dock project, which would use public funds without public input, and shape the future of our community, is a grave violation of trust between elected officials and their constituents. The process which allowed this to happen needs to be openly examined and corrected to meet Haines Borough rules, laws and standards. As a staunch citizen of both this Great Land and the United States of America, I believe in the angels of our better nature, in the principles and processes that support an equitable and open society. I'm not interested in finger pointing or name-calling; rather, in righting the course of government of the people, by the people, and for the people, through a principled adherence to truth and transparency. True honesty is what we do when no one is looking.

Meanwhile, the only logical course at this time for the Borough Assembly is to take No Action on this design proposal for a dock that seems to have been forwarded without the required and necessary public input.

Sincerely,

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