

From: [Elizabeth Hofer](#)
To: [Debra Schnabel](#); [Natalie Dawson](#); [Ben AultmanMoore](#); [Kevin Forster](#); [Gabe Thomas](#); [Craig Loomis](#); [Tom Morphet](#)
Cc: [Alekk Fullerton](#)
Subject: Comments for Tuesday Dec 12 meeting
Date: Monday, December 11, 2023 10:08:52 AM

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To: HAINES BOROUGH MAYOR AND ASSEMBLY MEMBERS

From: Elizabeth Hofer

Re.: Lutak Dock Status Meeting Dec12

I thank the Mayor and Assembly for the opportunity to enter my comments to you on the discussion this week regarding the status of the Lutak Dock ongoing issue. I attended the Information meetings and was impressed and grateful that this step was made to make available a lot of information that had been not so easy to understand from the public's point of view. I have read extensively what is available. From all of that input I would like to add my opinion to you that the design and deal on the table is a mistake on so many fronts that the wisest move is to put in place a STOP WORK ORDER immediately.

That buys time to reconsider more reasonable options which would also include the missing element of public involvement in the process. It is clear that the current plan does not reflect the community views and best interests. And it has severe and long-term effects for taxpayers who had no input.

The necessary steps ahead would

1. Prevent further implications for costs the borough cannot afford into the future by examining and choosing a simpler design to meet the actual needs of the borough and accomplish not only the necessary work of dealing with deteriorating infrastructure but also include cleaning up the pollution that the current design merely postpones into the future. Get rid of the pollution problem now ! strategy is obviously important to a community who values its water and fish.
2. Include a transparent public process from the outset.
3. Review and analyze the costs to date brought on by the previous Assembly's decision to forge ahead with their illegal agreement. It is obviously important to understand how the mistakes were made.

That is the immediate and pragmatic side of this issue, but from a big picture perspective there are many implications for all of us politically, sociologically I would add just to consider widely:

Besides the money it will cost taxpayers to correct the mistakes in process made by the previous assembly , another causality is the potential cost to our political system: it makes voters become very cynical, losing interest in voting and it should make any future potential political candidate consider the job even more seriously! The current assembly inherits the aftermath of the previous government's bad judgment in regard to this issue (and the other one of the Porcupine Road costs). When taxes rise to cover the costs of those mistakes, the assembly in power at the time has to apologize for work done poorly by previous members. It will make all of us pay much more attention

to the details of decisions made by local politicians – that part is good overall. Let's hope it does not discourage future politicians from running for office!

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Hofer

To: A. Fullerton, please include my input into the "Supporting Documents" for this meeting