

Kiersten Long

From: Kristin Hathhorn <khathhorn@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 1:50 PM
To: Alekka Fullerton; Ben AultmanMoore; Craig Loomis; Gabe Thomas; Kevin Forster; Natalie Dawson; Tom Morphet; Kiersten Long; Debra Schnabel
Subject: Please post in supporting documents for the 2/27/24 BA Meeting

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Dear Mayor and Borough Assembly Members,

We believe that nearly every Haines resident realizes that something must be done to improve the Lutak dock. This has been the case for years, with funding being the main factor in determining when and how dock improvements should and/or could be made.

Even though MARAD grant monies allow for improvements far exceeding the scope of the much simpler R&M design originally approved by the Borough Assembly, this doesn't mean the Turnagain Marine design is a better fit for our community. In fact, just the opposite is true.

Haines is a small community which for decades has had a stable population dependent on a reliable dock for the transfer of necessary goods and services. Though the costlier Turnagain Marine design could potentially be paid for with grant monies, the projected life cycle maintenance costs are nearly double that of the R&M design (see "A Life Cycle Cost Analysis" submitted by Eban Sargent) and would burden Haines resident taxpayers into the future. Furthermore, since the Turnagain Marine design far exceeds the needs of our small community, it unnecessarily creates the fear of its use as an ore dock. Borough officials have continuously denied that the dock would be used for ore transfer, so wouldn't it be much simpler and smarter to choose the less costly dock design, and in doing so, provide a functional, safe, and rational choice for Haines residents while alleviating fears?

The recent improvements to our harbor are a good example of what happens when choices are based on dollars available rather than the real needs of a community. We now have a huge, empty parking lot and no new slips for mooring boats...a huge waste of funds and resources!

We urge you to support a simple, safe, functional dock design such as that presented at the February 13, 2024 Borough Assembly Meeting.

Kristin Hathhorn
Mark Battaion
8 Mile Mud Bay Rd.