

Kiersten Long

From: Kathleen Menke <ci@akmk.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 3:46 PM
To: Kiersten Long
Subject: Resending communication originally sent to Alekka..

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Please add to the comments section of the packet for the meeting on the Lutak dock.
Please copy Mayor, Planner, Planning Commission, and Assembly Members.
Thank you.
Please confirm receipt of this communication.

The best decisions are not made when a broader section of the public is not more fully included on decisions in the first place. Contrary to statements made by many, many of us have attended Lutak meetings from the get-go and tried to provide input. This input was ignored.

The worst decisions, the most costly decisions (to both our future budgets and our future quality of life) are those that are pushed because:

Threats that it's too late to examine alternatives just because it is.

Threats that if we don't act on a current plan, costs will keep going up.

Intimidation by a contractor that materials have already been ordered.

Intimidation to public officials by special interests in the community pushing for their specific agenda of the biggest possible project without regard to other community input or long-term impacts to the community both in terms of quality of life and risks to future budgets to maintain something that is bigger than our actual needs.

Mistakes, intentional or unintentional, by public officials in communications with funders, contractors, the Borough Assembly, and the community. "We screwed up" is not a good reason to keep going down the wrong path.

We have time. The time is now to pause this project. To disoblige ourselves of any actions by the contractors that are not fully authorized and approved 100%. There should be no fear about undertaking an improved community process.

Better options for the Lutak Dock have been laid upon the table that will meet our community's needs with a smaller footprint and a lesser long-term fiscal risk. Better to lose a little money and momentum now than to destroy the values here that matter to us all (ie our biodiversity including marine mammals in the Chilkoot/Lutak corridor and beyond, our source of healthy seafood including hooligan, salmon, Dolly Varden, halibut, shrimp, crab, and seals, and healthy watershed and inlet for a multitude of plants, birds, and wildlife).

Without a real pause to examine our options we risk losing a whole lot more in the future and we put the Borough and the community at extreme financial risk for an overbuilt project.

Per linear mile, per square mile, the Chilkoot/Lutak watershed/inlet holds more biodiversity (land, river, and marine wildlife), tourism attraction, quality of life assets for residents & production of healthy seafood (hooligan, salmon, dolly

warden, shrimp, crab, halibut, seals) than any other portion of this amazing place we call home. Let's treat the Chilkoot/Lutak watershed/inlet corridor with the care and respect this valuable asset to our community deserves.

Thank you to the Mayor and the Assembly for working to get answers to important serious questions and past missteps. Together we can do this project right. Please demonstrate that you can lead us to a better way for community planning and decision making on significant projects. Start with the Lutak Dock. And start now please.

Kathleen Menke