

We have just learned that in May 2019 the borough planner issued a site development permit for filling and grading to Roger Schnabel for Front Street Lots 17 and 18 and 19. These lots are zoned waterfront. The boat harbor, The Lighthouse restaurant, Canal Marine and R/v park are also waterfront but are in what is considered light industrial as a use by right. There has been no light industrial building/activity on all waterfront zoned lots to the north of lots 17, 18 and 19. Do we need more light industrial or do we want to save some remaining waterfront to enhance the aesthetics of the area? As a community we need time to weigh the economic benefits of more light industrial vs. an aesthetic waterfront (as developed by the Portage Cove Waterfront Project spearheaded by Alaska Arts Confluence).

Another, maybe even larger consideration to be had before permits get issued under light industrial as a use by right for filling our waterfront intertidal zone is the huge cultural significance of Front Street as the historical Chilkoot village.

We believe that the planning commission should have been notified and community members should have had the opportunity to weigh in before the borough granted this permit. The public was not informed about this May 2019 borough permit to leave fill approximately 30'ft high (in order to eventually make more overflow parking and boat storage) out to the 12' tide mark to amend current development of Canal Marine and R/V park.

Neighbors on Front Street were recently sent a copy of Roger Schnabel's public notice of application for permit by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dated July 28, 2020. It is in this permit that Roger requests to fill not just to the mean high tide mark (approx. 16 feet), but down to the 12 foot tide mark, expanding his overflow parking lot to cover .72 acres. We are not clear whether he will also have to apply for a permit from the borough for this additional filling.

Thank you for considering these concerns.

Sincerely,

Liz and Mike Falvey