

Kiersten Long

From: Alekka Fullerton
Sent: Monday, March 4, 2024 9:34 AM
To: Kiersten Long
Subject: FW: Schnable permit at Lutak

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From: Sally McGuire <chilkootmcguire@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 2, 2024 1:53 PM
To: Alekka Fullerton <afullerton@haines.ak.us>
Subject: Fwd: Schnable permit at Lutak

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Dear Ms. Fullerton, I would like this to be posted as a comment to the Planning Board documents for the next meeting. Thanks, Sally McGuire

I live at Lutak and have been watching Roger Schnable's work near the old mill with increasing concern. I was appalled when I heard that the first two months of this mess was done without his even having a permit. My questions and complaints may have been part of what caused him to be required to stop for a minimal amount of time, and fined a slight amount of money.

So, I have serious concerns as a neighbor and as a person who cares about this place. Also, I have been involved with the tourist industry here- directly and indirectly- for over 25 years, and recognise what an insult to that it is too. And I have a son in fisheries and I am fairly well educated as to what runoff can do to salmon waters.

I do not know if Mr. Schnable is in legal violation of whatever permit he was eventually granted. He is most certainly in moral violation given the shoddy nature of the work which has already eroded into the inlet, and which continues to do so. And he is in violation of the public interest.

I well remember when APT was looking for a place to put a new hydroelectric dam 20 years ago or so. They outright rejected an otherwise good site on the hills between Skagway and Haines because, they said, it was inappropriate since tourists might be able to see some of it. The people I know in tourism assure me that their clients are appalled by what they are expected to look at on their way out to Haines' premier tourism destination which is of course our bears at Lutak.

Also, I find it to be a little hard to believe that Mr. Schnable was unaware of what happens when you get heavy rain on a destabilized slope. If he doesn't know that he must be about the only person in Haines who hasn't figured it out. Perhaps he doesn't care.

In light of all this, I urge you to not only rescind his permit, but to either fine him enough to pay for reclamation of the damaged hillside (ie, bringing in rock, revegetating, and whatever else needs to be done) or to require him to do that work himself. This would be not only to rescue what remains of the site but to make it clear that Haines has made it into the 21st century as far as getting developers to take permit requirements seriously- including the requirement that one should get a permit in the first place. One point of which, incidentally, should be that they be required to stick to the monetary estimate they give for the work.

Also, given his propensity for substandard work I would urge you to look hard at any future permits he may ask for. Thank you, Sally McGuire