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Subject: Front Street

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Planners and Zoners,

My name is Tom Faverty and I own a residence on Front Street. This spring Roger Schnabel planted a large mound of rock dirt and gravel in the front of our house. There was no notification or explanation for this continued industrialization of Portage Cove, the Old Village of the Chilkoot. One fine sunny spring day large machines began filling and mounding, filling and mounding for weeks.

Why is the mound there? How can a developer dominate and inundate a landscape that was the ancestral home of the Chilkoot Nation? Why does no one care that a 90 year old Chilkoot Tlingit woman can no longer get up in the morning and look out at the ocean?

It is my understanding that this parcel is zoned "light industrial". Well filling and mounding a healthy tideland with 40 ft. of rock and rubble sure doesn't seem to adhere to that zoning code.

I as well as my neighbors are sickened by the sanitation and industrialization of such a special cultural enclave; a place of seminal cultural history of our town. Front Street used to be a rural quiet sideroad that people would take to go to the ferry terminal. Fireweed would grow on the sides of the road and blue herons would roost down in the tidelands. Now it is a sterilized industrial zone that compliments nicely what is happening to the rest of the waterfront in Haines.

It is unfortunate that planners and zoners can and do not understand the importance of maintaining a balance of nature and development, Here in Haines we are the envy of any WalMart camper who is looking for a large sterile pad of fill to park the big rig. The wetlands and tidelands are mostly now gone. Filled by the bowels of Mt. Ripinski, and here we are looking more and more like down south everyday.

Thanks,

Tom Faverty