

Jo-Ann Taylor

From: SilverVox@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 19, 2010 7:12 AM
To: taylor@mvcommission.org
Cc: london@mvcommission.org; STRIPERCAPT@aol.com; lewsmv@msn.com; READAJ@oneonta.edu; Aaron@Naparstek.com; diorioron@aol.com; lonzoh@yahoo.com; bnaparstek@healthjourneys.com
Subject: Public Comment on Pier from Belleruth Naparstek
Attachments: Pier Comments to Linda Sibley Oct 18, 2010.doc

Jo-Ann,

My regular mail server is temporarily down and I'm running to catch a plane - thus the AOL address. I don't have most of the other email addresses, so I trust you'll pass this around. Thanks much.

BR

TO: Linda Sibley, Chair
TO: MVC Commissioners
CC: Jo-Ann Taylor
CC: Mark London

Please consider these final points, which hopefully aren't just a repeat of what you've heard before.

We residents of the North Bluff think there's been a rush to make this fishing pier happen, at the expense of due diligence and good judgment.

The MEPA review did not assess alternate sites, but simply looked at a no-build alternative. And although there has been a shrill insistence by site proponents that this is the best possible location on the island, it is not clear from anything we've heard or read how they came to that conclusion.

We wonder whether environmental impacts have really been addressed, as claimed, in an unbiased, methodical, accurate way. For instance, has there been a authentic study of traffic during the summer (vs. the shoulder season)? Does a casual eyeballing by town officials who are under tremendous pressure to give this project a thumbs-up, pass muster?

Have competing public trust interests truly been considered, given that the area in question is used as a public swimming beach, by residents and by island visitors waiting for the ferries?

What about the conflicting comments over where the water depth and fishing is preferable? When neighbors who have fished those waters (or used to and stopped trying to in recent decades) describe their experience, how does calling them liars make a convincing case?

The lack of civility around this pier proposal may be a side issue, but it is worrisome and disheartening. When residents of a neighborhood express their valid concerns and objections, and are subjected to

derision, intimidation, accusations and drive-by epithet-hurling, it doesn't bode well for the future of our island. Decisions like this one should not be made through bullying.

As citizens of Oak Bluffs, we have the right - even the duty - to suggest (to people who are mostly from other towns), a sensible alternate location - one where there are no impacts on homes and swimming; where there is better parking, less bottlenecked traffic, a public bus stop, a police station and better fishing conditions.

Sincerely,

Belleruth Naparstek

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