Carleton Island Cape Vincent Shoreline Disturbance

CHRISTINE AND ADRIAN MARTIN <CHRISTINEANDADRIAN@msn.com>

Sun 1/21/2024 5:04 PM

To:Central.Dispatch@dec.ny.gov <Central.Dispatch@dec.ny.gov>

4 attachments (15 MB)

IMG_2418.jpeg; IMG_1532.jpeg; IMG_1477.jpeg; IMG_0906.jpeg;

IMG_1003.mov

IMG_1005.jpeg

IMG_1007.jpeg

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IMG_1001.jpeg

January 21, 2024

Hello,

I am writing to file a complaint about the shoreline disturbance that happened this fall in South Bay, Carleton Island, Cape Vincent, Jefferson County. I am one of the neighbors living on the bay and was dismayed by the destruction that occurred in clearing the shoreline belonging to Carleton Villa LLC. A beaver lodge was destroyed. I had recently seen two river otters coming from there. Otters are known to cohabitate with beavers in these lodges. There is also evidence of recent beaver activity leading me to believe it was inhabited by beavers at the time of the destruction. Logs and other debris from the tear-down were left floating in the bay and dinged my prop and possibly those of other residents. It is my understanding that a permit was required but not obtained before this work was done. Attached are some pictures and a video taken by a neighbor immediately after this event.

I am further concerned about the proposed docks to support the planned campground and Villa restoration to B&B and restaurant. The original and amended plans show three docks in South Bay as a part of the proposal. (Plans can be found on Cape Vincent Town website.) No indication has been made public as to how guests will access the island. If by ferry, how many boats of what kind will be needed for the several hundred visitors who possibly may

arrive or depart daily? What type of captain's license will be required? What permitting is required for such commercial docks?

If guests arrive with their own boats, the dockage would necessarily be included in the room or campground rent. In the state of New York if there is dockage rental, it is a marina, which is expressly prohibited in the zoning code for the Island District.

> The term "marina" means any installation which provides any accommodations or facilities for watercraft, including mooring, docking, storing, leasing, sale, or servicing of watercraft, located adjacent to waters of the state.

I have personally seen approximately 40 dock sections the developer purchased from the Town of Cape Vincent and am very concerned about the size and scope of what may be developed. Evenings often find transient boaters at anchor in our quiet harbor. I am also concerned about impacts to the Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, and other fishing birds routinely seen feeding in the bay. You may be aware the island has one of the largest Heron rookeries in the area. We also have a bald eagle nest that hatches eaglets every year. The bay is also a well-known fishing ground which will be heavily impacted by the expected traffic.

On top of that, I am a swimmer and swam over 100 days in the bay last summer. Neighbors and guests swim, play, and float off our docks. I am very concerned about our safety as well as about threats to water quality for swimmers as well as for all the residents who rely on the river for drinking water.

Finally, while I am most concerned about what South Bay where I reside, I do have concerns about North Bay as well. The plans submitted to Zoning show a large beach area to be developed as well as docks for kayaks and canoes. I expect both the docks as well as the shoreline disturbance for beach development will require permits, and it is my understanding that no applications for those have yet been made.

Please advise me what is going to be done regarding this complaint and provide me with insight as to what is and is not under your authority so that I may pass on information to my neighbors who share my concern.

Best regards,
Christine Martin
303-518-3709