February 29, 2024

Hello,

I have previously reached out to the DEC, but I understand you work in conjunction with them on some issues and so wanted to loop you in as well. 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 when all the trees and vegetation along the entire shoreline were ripped out. An active beaver lodge was destroyed. 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.

This initial shore clearance is clearly the first step of building the proposed docks to support the planned campground and Villa restoration as a “resort”. The original and amended plans show three docks in South Bay and one dock in North Bay as a part of the proposal. (Most recent plan is attached. All of the trees showing in the photo beneath the plan overlay from the shoreline back 20-30 feet have been removed.) This clearing happened during the low water levels of the fall and were most definitely below the mean high tide. No sediment filters or other measures were taken to mitigate disturbance.

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, particularly in the small bay where my family, neighbors, and guests swim and recreate.

Finally, while I am most concerned about 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. This will involve substantial changes to existing shoreline and existing sediment. I expect both the docks as well as the shoreline clearing in North Bay and imported sand for beach development will require permits, and it is my understanding that no applications for those have yet been made. I am concerned that shoreline and dock construction will continue without appropriate oversight.

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