April 16, 2021

Mayor Sayre and Councillors:

MY NAME IS ALAN BRIGGS

I AM PRESIDENT OF BALD HEAD ASSOCIATION AND I AM HERE ON ITS BEHALF.

I HAVE TWO ISSUES I WOULD LIKE TO RAISE:

THE FIRST ISSUE WAS SET FORTH IN OUR APRIL 9 LETTER WE DELIVERED TO YOU.

THE BASIC SUBJECT OF THE LETTER IS BALD HEAD ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOUR HELP IN DEALING WITH A PROBLEM.

LANDSCAPERS ON BALD HEAD ISLAND HAVE BEEN ENGAGING IN CLEAR-CUTTING LOTS IN VIOLATION OF EXISTING BHA RULES PROHIBITING SUCH ACTION.

CLEAR-CUTTING THE LOTS OF BALD HEAD ISLAND IS CONTRARY TO EVERY CONSERVATION PRINCIPLE BALD HEAD ISLAND IS ALL ABOUT.

THE EXISTING BHA RULES AND THE ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE DO NOT PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE SOLUTION TO PREVENT THIS.

WE WOULD LIKE THE VILLAGE TO JOIN WITH US IN DRAFTING AN ORDINANCE THAT WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE REMEDY TO PREVENT THIS WRONGFUL CONDUCT.

I ASK YOU TO PUT THIS ON YOUR AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION TODAY OR ON YOUR MAY 21 COUNCIL AGENDA.

THE SECOND ISSUE I WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS IS THE VEGETATION THAT WAS CLEARED BY THE VILLAGE ADJACENT TO FEDERAL HIGHWAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONTRACTORS SERVICES IMPROVEMENTS

YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE MASSIVE LOSS OF UNDERSTORY VEGETATION THERE IS THE ITEM ABOUT WHICH OUR MEMBERS ARE COMPLAINING TO US THE MOST.

I FIRST WANT TO POINT OUT TO YOU THIS TYPE OF COMPLAINT IS ONE WITH WHICH WE ARE FAMILIAR. IN CONNECTION WITH THE WILDLIFE OVERLOOK REBUILD WE HAD TO REMOVE CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTORY TO ALLOW ACCESS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT.

TO BE SURE OUR MEMBERS COMPLAINED LOUDLY ABOUT THIS TO US.

BUT AS SOON AS CONSTRUCTION PERMITTED REPLANTING, WE DID. WE PLANTED THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS OF NEW VEGETATION TO REPLACE THAT WHICH HAD BEEN REMOVED.

THIS WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO AND WE DID IT.

THE VILLAGE HAS SAID IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT ITS PLAN IS TO QUOTE "LET THE VEGETATION (UNDERSTORY) GROW BACK TO THE EXTENT IT WILL OFFER SOME BUFFER IN THE LONG TERM." END QUOTE

IN ALL DUE RESPECT, WE BELIEVE THIS IS NOT ENOUGH. WHILE TRADITIONALLY ON BALD HEAD ISLAND LETTING NATURE TAKE ITS COURSE AND LETTING VEGETATION GROW BACK AS IT WILL IS OK. THAT IS NOT SUFFICIENT HERE WHERE YOU HAVE ALTERED NATURE AND REMOVED A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF UNDERSTORY YOURSELF.

WE URGE THE VILLAGE TO GO FORWARD AND DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO REPLACE THE CONSIDERABLE UNDERSTORY THAT WAS REMOVED.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.