

To: Boothbay Harbor Select Board
From: Friends of the Harbor

As a group of citizens who call ourselves Friends of the Harbor, we are writing to the Select Board to outline our concerns regarding East Side development. The Planning Board should be commended for the time spent in trying to address the request for zoning changes. We recognize the difficulty of the task they have faced in attempting to reconcile different approaches and visions.

We must have a shared community vision for the future of the Harbor. There is one resource in Boothbay Harbor that we must fight to preserve at all costs - the water; and public access to it. As stated in the State approved Boothbay Harbor 2015 Comprehensive Plan, our water resources are “interwoven throughout the community’s fabric and is perhaps Boothbay Harbor’s most important attribute”.

Let us not allow this issue to polarize us. We welcome change, however, we wish to encourage a more deliberate, less piecemeal, approach. The primary tool a town has to control its future is the regulation of land use through zoning. The Comprehensive Plan provides the legal underpinning of zoning ordinances. We must adhere to Maine State Statute, which requires any zoning changes to be “pursuant to and consistent with” the State approved Comprehensive Plan.

Before entertaining any changes, we favor the development of a zoning plan for the entire Harbor which incorporates zoning and land use consistent with the 2015 Comprehensive Plan. This has been suggested many times over the years by various Town officials. In our opinion, this must be the next logical step prior to the evaluation of any proposed zoning changes.

We realize that as a community, we are at a critical juncture and we need to make the right decision for our shared future. The sentiments in this letter reflect our profound concern for the future of our Harbor.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Harbor

Abbie Shaw, Henry Vess, Mary Frohlich, Marcia Soler, Ken & Jackie Pinald, Alex & Kathy Vise, Rob & Liz Lussier, McGregor & Barbara Gray, Jean & Robert McKay, David & Kathy Bean, George & Nancy McEvoy, John & Lynne Seitzer, Don & Chris Kenniston, Kernan & Jane Cross, George & Susan Craig, Donald & Sandra Young, Donna Piggott, David & Peggy Racicot, Tom & Patricia Cotter, Robert Ewing, Jeanne Koenig, Ken F-Fitch, Rebekah Rogers, John & Genie O’Connell, Sonia Bissell, Dana Moses, Tom Nadeau, Betsy Dunton, Mary Kaler, Jerry Hull, Larry Stevenson, Susan Bright, Kate Rice, Deb Todte, Fred & Georgia Beauchemin, David & Linda Clapp, Ron & Lorie Richardson, Peggy & Joe Stover, Omer & Constance Reed, Alan & Mary Tilton, Margaret & Stephan Branch, Capt. Sandy & Karen Young, Ann McCormick, William & Carole Paul, Hernan & Delores Reyes, Roger & Mary Miller, Robert Paskal, Donna Townsend, Ed & Peggy Brunner, Marianne Berrigan

CC: Boothbay Register

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