

To - Kenai Borough Assembly

Dear Sirs or Madame

I am writing in opposition to the proposed vacating of the long standing 100 foot public ROW access on Caribou Island in exchange for a small 30 foot right of way on unsuitable ground.

1. The proposal has no merit as it only benefits one person at the detriment of all other property owners on Caribou Island.
2. Every inland lot holder on Caribou Island has only 2 workable access points to land and moor their boats. At present the North Western access is often at or above capacity and in-holders have had to rely on the generosity of lakefront owners to land and store their boats. The South Eastern access (in question) also has congestion issues with moored boats but has the benefit of a flat lakefront that can be used to hold multiple boats on shore. The proposal would destroy those benefits and limit the ability for all non-lakefront owners to use and enjoy their property.
3. By reducing the eastern access by 70% the borough would be limiting the use/enjoyment of all interior lot owners and in particular those on the eastern half. All other public access points on the Eastern side are essentially unusable due to terrain . The financial impact on the landowners would be significant and the responsibility of the Borough if approved. The Borough would also be converting the value of 70% of a waterfront lot from the Island Community to an individual.
4. The very concept of a 30 foot easement to support access for 30 or 40 lots is incredulous, while the island does not currently house many in-holders the 100 foot easement is barely adequate presently and future use would become a nightmare.
5. The borough would also be creating a safety issue. With such a small access point, one has only to imagine a 20 foot boat trying to land on a 30 foot piece of lakefront in 50 MPH winds and 4 ft waves (which are common on Skilak). Said boat would block to entire landing and preclude any other boats from seeking shelter.
6. People affected by the proposed change where not notified. Often only adjacent lot owners are affected and need to be notified, however that is not the case in this instance, the current proposal affects every lot owner on the Island and to proceed each and every one should be notified and have input on the proposed change before proceeding.
7. The arguments regarding set backs and erosion are without merit, a person is responsible for knowing the limitations of each lot prior to purchase and everyone has the same erosion problems with storms and other boats.

In summary

There is no valid economic, ecologic or social reason for the proposed change, it serves to benefit one at the expense and safety of all others, it amounts to conversion of public assets to private ownership, it must be rejected.

Sincerely

Craig Walcott
35555 Spur Hwy #140
Soldotna AK 99669