

eComment
Petition to Vacate – Caribou Island

Jill Leiter

Location:

Submitted At: 12:17pm 02-13-21

Dear Borough Assembly,

We have been residents of Caribou Island since 2004.

We are asking that you veto the Planning Commission decision made on January 25 regarding the below petition from Michael R. Clements and Peggy Clements:

The Planning commission made the following decision:

Our reasons for asking you to veto are the following:

1. The Clements state in their petition they want to move the right-of-way because residents of the island 'mistakenly use' part of their property when they use the right-of-way. This is something that happens all over the island, and other property owners have simply erected barriers that keep it from happening, rather than asking for property lines to change.
 2. The Clements own several lots on the island. It appears they want to move the right-of-way so all their lots are together; this isn't a legitimate reason to do something that will affect everyone who accesses that right-of-way.
 3. If the right-of-way is moved, who is going to be responsible to cut down trees and lessen the steep grade of the new trail to make it accessible?
 4. The area of the beach of the proposed right-of-way is very shallow and rocky, making it impossible to anchor boats.
 5. The Clements claim they have talked to other people on the island regarding their petition, but no one I've talked to had heard anything about this petition. We were not sent any notice of this before the Planning Commission met on 1/25.
 6. The Clements want to vacate a 100-foot right-of-way between two of their lots, and move it to the other side of one of their lots, but only make it a 30-foot right-of-way, which means they gain 70 feet of lake front property and pay nothing for it. They even say in their petition that they want to leave enough room to build another cabin for family and friends.
 7. The Clements claim there are five right-of-ways on the south side of the island. There are actually only 3 on the south side, and the one they want to move is the only right-of-way with established trails. There are a total of six right-of-ways on the island, but only two with established trails, one on the north and the one in question on the south. Without established trails, island residents cannot move their gear from their boats to their cabins by fourwheeler.
 8. The lots we own are in the middle of the island and we access our lots from the right-of-way on the north side, so this doesn't really affect us, but if the Planning Commission's decision stands, they have now set a precedent that says island residents can petition to change right-of-ways to benefit only themselves, and more residents will start petitioning to do so.
- Again, we would ask you to veto the Planning Commission's decision to grant the Clements' petition.

I think it's also important that you know that the residents of the island are aware that Peggy Clement actually works FOR the Planning Department as Platting Technician, which seems to us a drastic conflict of interest. I called the Planning Commission office and was transferred TO Peggy. I'm not going to talk to her about her own petition. That's very bad public relations on the part of the Planning Department.

If you would like to further discuss this, you can reach us at 805-801-8055.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary and Jill Leiter