

April 1, 2013

Dear Council Members,

Not many of us would choose to run for Bainbridge Island Council. I believe that each one of you is bright, and well intentioned. I believe it is a sacrifice to spend the time that you do trying to represent your neighbors. On the other hand, I believe it is an honor to hold this position. I suggest that you daily remind yourselves that you are elected representatives who must listen to the people.

I've been off island for a little over a year so have lost some momentum in keeping up with the shore line management program. I want you to know that I don't like what I'm now sensing as a certain arrogance among some of the council members along with a condescending attitude about what is best for the "rest of us". This I abhor. On this point alone I urge you simply stop. Accept the original SMP and then concentrate on regulations that will seriously have an impact on the health of Puget Sound.

My experience is that the best stewards of Puget Sound and its beaches live along its edge. I walk Pleasant Beach down to Lytle Road with a back pack to pick up litter. Several times, at this public access, I've had to help people from the current of Rich Passage. There are no warning signs at this beach nor garbage containers. Before I left the island I was drafting an appeal along with suggestions to help this beautiful beach become safe and clean. I'll continue with this goal when I return in 2014. In other words, I want the city to do the job at hand and Lytle Beach is only one example of a pressing issues that is simply ignored. Is it easier to keep passing more regulations rather than solving existing problems? I don't get it!!!

I remember the water in front of my house when there were healthy kelp beds, sand dollars, and -----no stinky sea lettuce. This dire circumstance is a result of all island activity. Waterfront owners should be encouraged (not alienated) to continue with their stewardship and the rest of the island should be brought up to the same standard. Please put your energies towards the obvious problems at hand. It's the old forest through the trees syndrome and the MBA language that keeps on giving without any reasonable, or implemented decisions. Get to work on the real issues and pass the SMP as first presented many years ago.

Yours truly,

Marilyn McLauchlan 4359 Pleasant Beach Drive NE 206 842 0339