

Mr. Angie

Planning Commission

I am the owner of the property south of Ken Kearn at 1509 Taughannock Blvd. I reside in Georgia but spend 5 or so months a year at this property, the land of which has been in my family since the 1880's.

I have just watched the video recording of the planning board meeting of March 5, 2024, which discussed Mr. Kearn's amended site plan proposal and share many of the concerns brought up by members of the planning board- specifically the construction of a driveway going down to the lake and other landscaping projects he proposes.

As was stated in the meeting there is no reason to install a driveway to the lake which would needlessly disturb a lot of land and present erosion issues. It is upsetting to learn that Mr Kearn had begun constructing this driveway without first getting permission. We had assumed that he had obtained proper vetting and permission for all parts of his construction on his property.

Historically Mr. Kearn, unfortunately, has not been given competent advice on projects for his property. These mistakes have resulted in the erosion issues he currently has. When he purchased the property he had all the trees and shrubs on the bank removed in order to have a better view of the lake. These trees held the soil that is now eroding. Other properties, close to or abutting his, which are located on the same steep slope did not remove trees and shrubs resulting in a lot less erosion on the bank in front of their homes.

When Mr. Kearn's house was constructed so much soil was removed on the south side of his house that the house to the south of his, which is on stilts due to water issues along the bank, was in danger of becoming unstable. We do not know how this was rectified but it seemed to be another example of Mr. Kearn's poor construction planning and management.

Both properties to the south of Mr. Kearn's are located on a steep slope and have steps to access the beach. Driveways are unnecessary. As was stated in the meeting, the driveway is not needed to build a dock. Most all of the houses in the area have had docks constructed, repaired or rebuilt by barges which consequently do not leave the long term issues with erosion that a driveway would.

There is already a lot of water runoff in that area due to the steepness of the slope. Unnecessary driveways or roads are not needed that would allow water, soil and silt to run into the lake. We are concerned that such runoff could damage our beachwell which is located just south of Mr. Kearn's property and would cause damage to the long term health of the lake.

As for the concrete pad, I would like to see some documentation that it was approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. We questioned Mr Zepko about why the pad was allowed to be put in place as it is not the required 50' from the high water mark and definitely creates a hardening of the beach which causes water runoff into the lake. We were told at that time that the concrete pad was not against code but I have since been told that the Corps would never have allowed this.

As far as steps to the lake are concerned Mr and Mrs Kearn do need a way to access the beach from their home. Hopefully minimal land disturbance can be made during construction of their proposed steps. I don't know the advantages of wooden steps over stone steps but if Mrs. Kearnly has mobility issues wooden steps may be safer as stone gets very slick when it rains.

We appreciate the planning commission considering the negative impacts on the environment posed by construction of an unnecessary driveway to the lake which we hope will not be approved.

Living on the lake one has to think of long term protection of the land and lake and not do things like constructing a road in order to build a dock when it can be done by a barge which would create no erosion issues to deal with. Excessive silt and nutrients going into the lake contribute to issues such as damage to beachwells, and overall health of the lake. Excessive nutrients and soil erosion have increased HABs in the past few years which have currently become a huge problem on Cayuga Lake.

Leslie Webster

1509 Taughannock Blvd.

