

The Russell Landing Road Residents/Cottager's Group

Pam Bessey / Hugh Reynolds
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April 10, 2010

Dangerous Precedent on Kawagama Lake

Dear Neighbour,

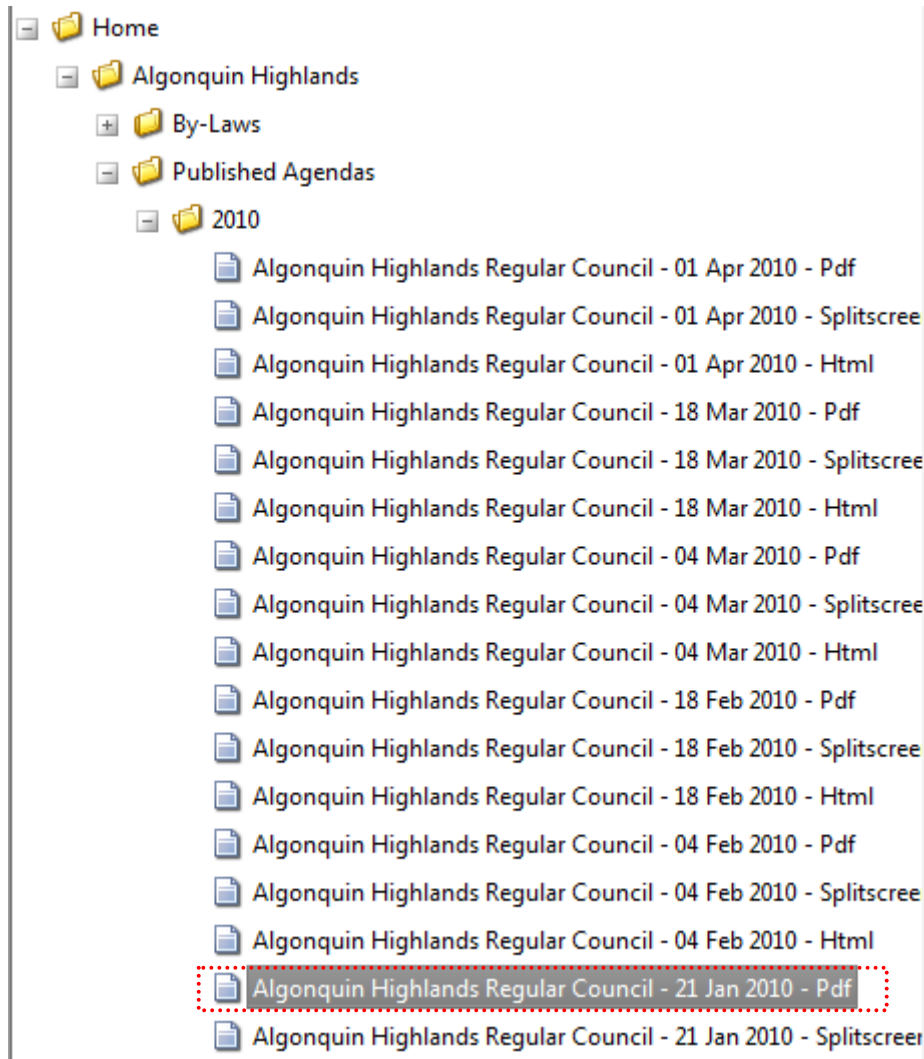
We live at 1611 Russell Landing Road (about 150 meters west of Old Mill Marina) and we share a boundary with 1569 Russell Landing Road, the property Old Mill Marina wants to re-zone Recreational/Commercial and install a full blown boat storage facility:

- Rob Walisser of Old Mill Marina (OMM) sent a letter, dated October 10, 2010, outlining his intention to put Boat Storage yard on 1569 Russell Landing Road (11.5 acres). The property is not owned by Old Mill Marina or Rob Walisser. It belongs to #1801552 ONTARIO LIMITED with address at 90 Burnhamthorpe Road West, Mississauga, Ontario.
- Rob Walisser approached the Algonquin Highlands Council on January 21st, 2010 for a special "pre-consultation meeting". He was accompanied by Chuck MacDonald, a member of the Board of Kawagama Lake Cottage Association (KLCA). MacDonald's presence with Rob Walisser (also a member of the Board of KLCA) was taken to be that KLCA supported Rob Walisser's proposed application to rezone. Council has given approval in principal to the plan. Walisser claims he needs to expand boat storage 200+ boats over the next five years – **many may be coming from other lakes** - along Kawagama Lake Road and Russell Landing Road.
- The **negative impact on the surrounding residences and cottages will be devastating**, in terms of noise, traffic, safety for children and families walking along the narrow road. The threat to the water table (several of us have wells close by) from oil and gasoline spills and the illumination of the night with security lights – bears not thinking about. This Marina/storage facility on the hill will be an "island" in the middle of residences and residential cottages. It's a massive intrusion and will destroy our piece and tranquillity – this is completely the opposite reason why we purchased our properties based on the Official Plan policies that are in place to protect our interests.
- Meanwhile 6 of us alongside 1569 Russell Landing Road have hired a Planner – Lanny Dennis of Wayne Simpson and Associates, Huntsville. We have asked for an equal opportunity to present a report and our concerns. No reply from Council, yet.
- **There is a huge question of setting a precedent. If this goes through, anyone will be able to install a boat storage/other commercial activity on a back lot anywhere around the lake.**
- Feel free to contact me and seriously consider emailing Council of Algonquin Highlands: email info@algonquinhighlands.ca or directly to Ms. Angie Bird (the Municipal Clerk - Planning Administrator) at abird@algonquinhighlands.ca.

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- Additional information is available on the Algonquin Highlands website www.algonquinhighlands.ca. We also recommend that you also review the meeting minutes from the January 21, 2010 council meeting along with additional details on the proposed rezoning at <http://haliburton.civicweb.net/contentengine/launch.asp?ID=0> by navigating to the highlighted entry below and scrolling to page 97.



Yours sincerely,

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