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FOR THE NORTHPORT PLANNING COMMISSION, RE EAST SEVENTH STREET

1 message

Gerald Schatz <geraldschatz@charter.net> Wed, Dec 15, 2021 at 2:59 PM
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TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT, MICHIGAN,

DECEMBER 15, 2021

FROM: Gerald S. Schatz

505 N. Mill St.

P.O. Box 178

Northport, MI 49670

These remarks are for the record and concern the Village's East Seventh Street property.

I have no direct or indirect financial interests or client representational interests in this matter. My background includes environmental law and environmental protection planning. At the Village Council's request I reported independently to this Commission on issues and options for the site.

The site is environmentally sensitive due to:

-- Its significant proximity and hydrologic nexus to Lake Michigan.

This has federal regulatory significance. Merely designating a wetland irrespective of federal regulatory definitions does not suffice. Neither, for this tract so close to and draining to the lake, does disregarding significant hydrologic factors and features; in addition to wetlands, these, too, are of federal regulatory significance.

-- Its setting adjacent to a designated conservation area;

-- Principles expressed in the Village's Master Plan; and

-- Scarcity of our remaining publicly accessible open space, wetlands, and woodlands.

Please remove East Seventh Street actions from your agenda for now.

Please delay action on this matter until--consistent with the spirit and letter of the Open Meetings Act--this Commission and the Village of Northport can in good faith elicit public views and concerns and can consider the full range of choices. That has not yet been done. As a practical matter, this will take a substantial publicity effort and, to be fair, should not be done until our sizable snowbird population has returned here. I do not suggest a popularity contest. I do urge careful effort to understand the full range of choices and their respective drawbacks and merits.

Thank you.

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