

1 Manjoy Heights

12-12-13

Dear Planning Board,

Att. 9r

As regards development in the vicinity of Walnut and Sheridan St., perhaps another look is called for.

As a longtime Commercial Fisherman, (50+ years), I look upon removal of any trees, grasses, shrubs and soils on the peninsula as another threat to CASCO BAY. Contrary to popular belief, our bay is under severe stress and is much degraded. I refer you to Friends of Casco Bay and Capt. Joe Payne, the Baykeeper, for a more thorough assessment. A large part of this threat is arriving in the form of run off. Every trickle, stream, river and rain storm produces its own load of toxic poisons, Herbicides, Pesticides, Nitrogen enriched lawn fertilizers, drippings & droppings from both mechanical and multi-pedal sources; all contribute to a deadly brew for our bay.

Directly downhill from at least two proposed projects lies BACK Cove. Any reduction in the retaining, reducing, trapping and barrier like ability of these urban forest areas will allow more pollutants to cascade downhill and, in short order, spill into the Bay.



As an taxpaying citizen of Portland and being mindful of a healthy Bay, I urge you to forbid removal of hillside shrubs, grasses, trees or any other greenery which acts as a natural anchor for the soils and a retarding barrier against polluting run offs.

Another note of interest, it seems a forest knowledgeable person walked through the "JACK PATH" area at the request of a neighbor, pointing out the various wild species there. Apparently there are several Elm trees. If this is true, you have to join me in appreciating the tragic irony of a city, whose streets were once graced by beautiful Elms; allowing the cutting away of what has to be some of the few remaining Elms on the peninsula.

Submitted with respect,  
Keith Lane  
73 Waterville St.  
Portland, Maine.

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