

## Statement to Planning and Zoning Commission

February 7, 2022

Dear Mr. Gustin,

I am writing to oppose proposed alterations in property boundaries for land immediately north of Rock Point. Specifically, I object to any and all of the following changes in property boundaries:

\* Creation of a property boundary between the shoreline portion of Parcel 033-3-008-000 and the portion east of the Burlington Greenway (owned by the Elks Lodge), and

\* Dissolution of the property boundary between the shoreline portion of Parcel 033-3-008-000 and Parcel ID 032-4-001-000 (owned by Killarney Drive Inc.; KDI)

The parcel in question, a piece of shoreline on Lake Champlain with the exposed geologic feature of the Champlain Thrust Fault, is a valuable educational resource for the city and for the many students who study here. In the courses I teach at UVM, I have often accessed this amazing resource to help students understand the geologic history and how this connects to our environment today. It would be a great loss of this tremendous resource to place it in the private hands of ~40 households of KDI, rather than to hold it with the city or a land trust and continue to allow diverse, inclusive access to students and others who can learn from it and enjoy it.

In addition, careful stewardship of this parcel contributes to the health of Lake Champlain. The wetlands located on the property play a likely small but important role in shoreline structure and function. Again, caring for this area should be in the public interest, rather than private hands.

I believe that the remainder of the Elks Club parcel being sold will ultimately be moved to the City of Burlington. It is my sincere hope that this remarkable piece of shoreline can also be held by the city, or a land trust that could preserve the ecological and educational value and maintain public access.

Thank you,

Laura Yayac

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