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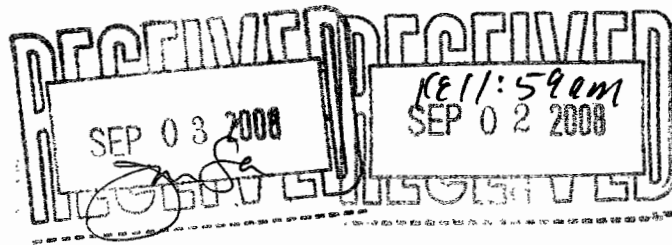
August 29, 2008

LaPointe Town Board
Box 270
LaPointe, WI 54850

In 1933, Irene Coffin, a young widow with three teenage children purchased 60 (later 80) acres at "Kron's Beach" at the extreme northeast end of Madeline Island. We then raised strawberries, raspberries and cherries for market. We also leased a field to the University of Wisconsin School of Agriculture for potatoe breeding after we called attention to the fact that unlike most growers, our potatoe plants set small cherry-sized seed balls. The climate in most of Wisconsin is such that potatoes drop their blossoms and never set seed. Gary Rieman's (currently a landowner on North Shore Road) father was the plant breeder from the University who came year after year in the 1930s to run the experiments.

During the war, Bob was a Naval Air Corps pilot and nobody came to the Island. Bob married next door neighbor Betty in 1944 and Betsy, our first, arrived in 1945. We never planted a field since the War but we have returned, as a family every summer since. Betty and Bob had four children; Betsy, Bob Jr., Barbara, and John. They have presented us with eleven grandchildren, six of whom are now married. One, for an Island wedding this past summer. We have had three Island weddings, and now have five great grandchildren, with two more in the oven. The Island has had a tremendous emotional impact on all our family. It is now owned by all of our members in a family trust to spread the very oppressive taxes to all of our members.

We feel that there is an important lesson in our experience in a small Illinois village, in regards to the proposed changes in the Town of LaPointe's Master Plan. Bob Sr. and Betty moved to Long Grove, Illinois when Bob got out of the Navy. It was then all dairy farms. They bought nine acres of pasture and drove the nails themselves to build a family home. As the suburban population of the Chicago area grew, Bob served twenty-two years as Village President. We organized an incorporated village of single family homesites and a small shopping area. After retiring as President, he served another twenty years on the Plan Commission. He had his own business as an architect-engineer. The Village adopted a Master Plan in 1957. The plan included large reserve areas (3000 acres) of dedicated open space including wetlands, and ecologically important We reserved 100 foot setbacks on all major highways and architectural controls on the shopping area.



We observed, as Chicago spread into what had been farmland, those villages who jealously guarded their Master Plans, found the courts sympathetic. We were challenged by three major, nationally-based developers, all the way to the Supreme Court, by organizations with seemingly unlimited amounts of legal talent and huge budgets. We were bullied and personally sued, but the courts stayed with the Village of Long Grove citing impartial consistency -- our village had consistently held to its Master Plan. Neighboring villages who made exceptions found the courts were unwilling to sustain their plans and ordinances.

The quality of life and the stability of property values in the Village of Long Grove has held up very well. Our business community of smaller operators has ridden with the tide very well while other communities who opened their areas to large new developers found themselves bankrupt and long gone.

We are alarmed by the proposed changes in the Island Master Plan. If we set up numerous special uses, and exceptions to our single family pattern, we are unlikely to find the courts willing to defend the quality of life we all cherish and our present generation of small businesses unable to compete with larger, better financed competitors.

Sincerely,

Robert Parker Coffin

Betty and Bob Coffin

