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August 26, 2008

Town Plan Commission  
Town of La Pointe  
LaPointe WI 54850

RE: Proposed Text Changes – La Pointe Zoning Ordinance

Dear Chairman Broberg and Commission Members:

Madeline Island is at a critical juncture, with a choice to preserve and protect its current character or to allow unchecked development to destroy those very values that make it desirable in the first place. This is the dilemma of all "good places" and, regrettably, most of them succumb to the economic lure of overdevelopment, pricing out the local populace and making it an artificial enclave for investors and speculators. We must not allow this on Madeline.

To quote from your own Community Vision Plan;

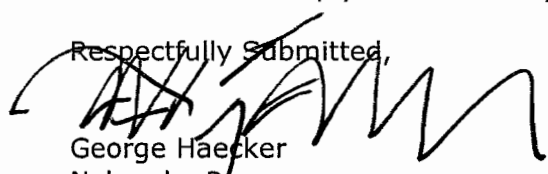
4. Long-term historical, cultural and environmental preservation takes precedence over short-term social and economic gain.

Certainly, your proposed zoning changes are in direct contradiction to this vision and would eliminate every single-family district on the island, violating their historical integrity and, in effect, open the entire island to commercialization.

We have a number of important historic districts on the island that should be preserved and are of National Register eligibility. This includes virtually the whole shore line from Sunny Slope, Nebraska Row, the cottages along Main Street, the Mission area and around the west shore to Grant's Point. This is the necklace of architectural integrity that is the first and prime view of the island that visitors see, immediately establishing the Island's character and charm. To compromise this area with more multi-family development would be a travesty of the first degree and an irrevocable disservice to the island.

I, my family, and a multitude of neighbors strongly object to the revised zoning language, most particularly the R-1 and R-2 definitions, and ask that these districts simply be left as they are.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
George Haecker  
Nebraska Row

