



Site Planning Development, Inc.

Landscape Architecture

A Design/Build Company

December 18, 2008

Ms. Sallie Foley
679 Worthington Pl.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Re: Proposal for the Torch Lake Yacht Club

Dear Sallie,

I am attaching our proposal for the items we recently talked about, along with a few other recommendations for action next spring pertaining to safety and the protection and preservation of important features at the Club.

The following is brief commentary, and outlines few other items worthy of consideration and implementation over the long term, all in the interest of protection and preservation of club property. You know that, like all members, I have a personal and sincere interest in the TLYC and Torch Lake. We should remind ourselves that the TLYC resides on one of the most prominent and visible places on the lake. As such, our level of care and stewardship of the lake and the land is advertised to every passerby.

Accordingly, I am compelled to share my dismay regarding shore conditions and the carelessness used dragging hoists around the point. As some might claim, our point suffers occasional ice damage. Most years, though, this natural occurrence causes relatively minor damage. My concern is that the deep scars caused by dragging a hoist over the beach create just the foothold needed to make ice erosion even more severe. My first and simplest recommendation is for the membership to invest in a couple of sets of hoist wheels, making it easier to move them and reduce the depth and severity of the troughs.

As club membership and subsequent traffic has grown, compaction and erosion have become greater concerns. Plantings of beach grass, native groundcovers and other trees and shrubs will help hold soil and prevent erosion. It might even be worthwhile to consider boardwalks or paths to direct foot traffic and thereby reduce compaction and the loss of vegetation. Please remember that in addition to tree services and sitework, we are a landscape company owned and operated by professional landscape architects. We are quite experienced in this regard and would be pleased to discuss such planning and long range implementation.

I noted large ruts made by someone driving a pick up truck out past the starting tower. It would seem reasonable to identify places off limits to vehicles.

Sallie Foley
Page 2
December 18, 2008

The big Silver Maple by the tennis court should have decking over the roots to protect them and, additionally, provide more seating for viewing tennis matches.

It has been many years since I have spent much time at the club and I know that it now has probably three times the membership. More people and more activity over our small land area means greater effort and investment of time and money is needed to protect our environment. I propose the notion that it would be appropriate for the TLYC, in such a prominent location and with such rich history of a membership loving and caring for Torch Lake, to be the model of good stewardship.

Our company would like to be a part achieving that goal

Warm regards,

Original signed

Mike McDuffie
Certified Arborist

c/o



Traver Wood, RLA
Senior Landscape Architect