

June 7, 2021

To: Code Committee

From: Committee Chair Chris Napoli

RE: Trapping information

I started this process by speaking to local trapper Todd Fritze about suggestions on how to develop an ordinance that would work well with trappers and other outdoor enthusiasts. Todd introduced me to Alaska Trappers Association President Randy Zarnke. Randy and I traded a couple emails until I was able to set up a teleconference with Interim City Manager Chis Hladick, Randy and myself.

The Alaska Trappers Association monitors trapping issues all over the State. Under the Alaska Constitution, trapping is regulated by the State, through the Board of Game. Municipal and Borough governments are allowed to regulate activities on land they own but not on State or Federal lands.

We had a healthy discussion on the trapping issue and the direction given to the Code Committee by the Dillingham City Council to recommend an ordinance for consideration. We agreed that a different course of action instead of a City Ordinance might be more effective. They recommended and both the City Manager and I agreed that creating an ad hoc committee to include representation from the council, members from the community at large and members who trap would be a good start. The ad hoc committee would work out a mutually acceptable system with the goal of preventing conflicts. That system could then be submitted to the Board of Game in the form of a proposal that would recommend a regulation specific to Dillingham. A consensus approach including locals, the council and trappers would more than likely gain the Alaska Trappers Association's support. This seems like a rational approach.

The Alaska Trappers Association has pledged support through PSAs, Sharing Alaska Trails an educational video and signs that explain the current regulations that prohibit trapping along predominant walking trails and roads. I look forward to the upcoming meeting.