

## Debra Thompson

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**From:** SharonBrad <sharonbradak@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 4, 2023 8:43 PM  
**To:** Assembly  
**Subject:** 8th Street Land Sale

Hello and thank you for letting me comment on the proposed 8th Street land sale.

First, I would like to say that I whole heartedly support Petersburg Indian Association's efforts to provide affordable housing for our community and I'm grateful they are pursuing a remedy for this need.

I have several points that I would like to submit to the Assembly for consideration during the planning process for the proposed sale of the 8<sup>th</sup> Street property to Petersburg Indian Association and my comments are related to the Nature Trail.

1. The area the trail passes through has some excellent bird habitat and I hope that habitat can be retained as much as feasible. As evidence of this value, you should be aware that the trail is one of the Petersburg sites that the Alaska Audubon Society recommends on its website ( <https://ak.audubon.org/southeast-alaska-birding-trail>) for people to visit. The riparian areas on the lower trail, and the alder patches on the upper trail are excellent habitat, and I would think some of the easiest to retain without impacting the feasibility for PIA's proposal. I think Mary Clemen's proposal to you in your December 4 Assembly meeting of 50' both sides of the trail will meet this need.
2. As I'm sure you know, several youth programs use this area, including Kinderskog. Please ensure the sites they use are kept in place. Outdoor education is important for our youth and having an area readily accessible from the school and day care is important.
3. I think having a survey of the existing trail location will help head off any unforeseen problems with the ROW location. It would be best if the trail remains located where it is. A corridor that is too narrow might necessitate making the trail steeper. It is not clear to me that the trail meander will fit within the 50' ROW as shown in the 11/12/23 drawing submitted to the Borough. The trail needs to follow a certain grade as it meanders up the hill. A second point on trail location is it would benefit from having a buffer between the trail and the new property owners. I.E. the homeowners and the trail users would be best served if the trail location was not immediately abutting the property line. An existing trail survey plotted over the proposed ROW would make it clear if there are any conflicts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment, and thank you for all the effort you put into our community.

Brad Hunter