

Letter to Editor - T&G December, 2017

Monty Baus <monty@montybaus.com> Sun, Dec 18, 2016 at 3:44 PM

To: publisher@tribune-georgian.com

As I drove away from the December 7th Camden County Planning Commission hearing I was outraged, as were many others, at the lack of preparedness and the candid "wink-wink" of some Commission members in regard to the Lumar LLC request for "hardship variance" on Cumberland Island. I surely thought many questions would be posed, much concern raised and not only heart-felt comments but solid, factual information from both sides of the issue would be brought forth during the meeting. I was very wrong....Lumar LLC talked only of nostalgia and the strong past efforts of the families on the island to protect it....and of the important stewardship they felt toward the Island. Meanwhile the Planning Commission showed their lack of preparedness...brought no information to the table, instead they offered awkward silence and an obvious predetermined mindset to pass the request.

I have sat at the computer many times after that meeting writing this letter to the Tribune and Georgian....each time managing to rekindle the outrage from that evening....and so, did the logical thing. I deleted my anger and walked away thinking one more day would surely help to soften the disappointment my county officials demonstrated to me on the 7th. It was frustrating trying to express what I feel, and many others feel about this very sensitive issue.....and indeed, about the very sensitive island that we all....on both sides of this issue love and want to protect. Then along came Jacqueline Eichhorn's letter in last week's Tribune. A letter that most eloquently conveyed both sides of the issue at hand.....the protection of Cumberland Island for the future versus the wants of a small group that seems to understand the extent of their special request but still feel their desires to be good stewards of the Island, like their forefathers, is enough to warrant special dispensation.

What I would like to remind each and every reader of this letter is....that we too, all of us, are stewards of this wonderful place called Cumberland Island. Remember, as American citizens we all own a small part of this place.....it is a National Seashore and Wilderness area..... many times in life we need to put aside our own personal desires and wants for the betterment of the whole (something my parents taught me as a child). Sometimes we must realize there is a bigger picture, sometimes more than just "me" is involved and that to do the bigger thing is to be the better human being....and in this instance maybe the better American citizen.