

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

To: Maureen Murphy - County Administrator  
Dan Austad - County Board Chairman  
Ken Fisher - Resource Planning Committee, Chairman  
Mariah Goode - Planning Department, Director

From: Town of Washington — Town Board of Supervisors

Regards: Concerns and suggestions to promote economic activity on Washington Island.

The Town of Washington would like to communicate its concerns and offer some suggestions on what we feel to be a critical process in encouraging and promoting economic activity and development on Washington Island — and that is the current zoning and planning process administered by the Door County Zoning and Planning Department. The most recent event that has triggered this concern is the private business incubator project that was proposed by Scott Sonoc, which according to Mr. Sonoc, has been withdrawn mainly due to the inability to come to an agreeable definition on zoning and permitting for such a facility from an Economic standpoint.

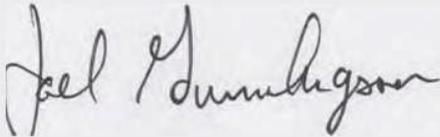
While the intent of this letter is not to re-hash the failed incubator project, we feel it is very relevant to cite it as an example and use it to generate ideas for improving the process going forward. Our main objective is to encourage economic development and activity on Washington Island. Some concerns and suggestions we have are:

1. We do not want potential projects to "die" with the Door County Planning and Zoning Department — how can we work together to make sure every option is considered to move a project forward.
2. What can be done to change current practice and perception?
  - a. Make the permitting process less daunting and more collaborative.
  - b. Educate builders, architects, realtors and others on the process and requirements — set property owners expectations on the process prior to starting the actual process.
  - c. Improve customer relations on the part of the Door County Planning and Zoning Department — use more common sense and less strict interpretation. Be less "official" and bureaucratic and more "customer" focused.
3. Define arbitration / mediation process. If there is a dispute, what is the legal recourse?

4. Make it less about fees and more about results. Door County Planning and Zoning Department should be more willing to help determine if a project is even feasible and define what will be required prior to even collecting fees. If the project moves forward, then collect the fees.
5. Consistent enforcement of the rules and process.

We would like to propose a public meeting with the four of you to explore these concerns and suggestions further, get clarification on what current practices are and determine what changes would be required to implement some of our suggestions. Please let us know your thoughts on this and we can arrange the next steps.

On behalf of the Town Board and the Towns Economic Development Committee,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Gunnlaugsson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Joel Gunnlaugsson  
Town Chairman  
Town of Washington