**From:** Greg Streveler

**To:** Mike Taylor

**Cc:** Nathan Borson; Shelley Owens; Liesl Barker; ivy.spohnholz@tnc.org; Hank Lentfer; Whitney Rapp; Kimber Owen;  Gustavus GVA. Visitor Association; Susan Brook; Wayne Howell; Judy Brakel; Nat Drumheller

**Subject:** Re: Approach to TNC regarding Gustavus Forelands Preserve

**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 08:06:39

# Mike,

Thanks for informing me of the City’s draft posture on this issue. I concur that it is good policy for the City to construct a lawful pathway allowing local authority over these important lands.

However, in my view, this should not proceed without acknowledgement of Hoonah’s legitimate interest in these lands based on their inclusion in the Hoonah Kaawu. This may not include direct ownership, but should include, at a mimimum, solicitation of views through a formal channel. There are lessons to be learned here from the NPS’s successful partnership with Hoonah that on the clanhouse that did not involve direct ownership.

Thanks again, Greg

Sent from my iPad

On Feb 5, 2024, at 12:28 PM, Mike Taylor <mike.taylor@gustavus-ak.gov> wrote:

[Correcting email address and spelling for Ivy Spohnholz, from original email this morning. My apologies!—Mike]

Thanks, Nate, for sharing your perspective as one of the key folks here who worked so hard to move the Legacy lands from being at risk under Mental Health Trust ownership to more secure stewardship by The Nature Conservancy. I am truly grateful for your long involvement and continuing efforts to assure the future of the Gustavus Forelands Preserve. Below are my thoughts as a council member. I’m copying Mayor Owens and City Clerk Liesl Barker, plus the folks on your distribution list as well.

It’s easy to underappreciate how at-risk our Gustavus Forelands Preserve lands were, and may continue to be, despite Ivy Spohnholz’s assurances. TNC’s priorities change over time, often creating concerns among donors. TNC both nationally and within the State of Alaska now has a program and policy to transfer TNC lands to American Native groups with the expectation that those Native groups will manage the lands for their conservation values as TNC would have. We are proud that the largest tract of TNC-purchased lands in Alaska is our Forelands Preserve. Transfer of TNC properties to Native groups is an appropriate policy at many locations in the US and world, such as environmental destruction through deforestation in the Amazon, but not for our Forelands Preserve lands. The people of Gustavus donated and worked hard to preserve these important community lands in perpetuity, and as responsible