**From:** [Thomas McLaughlin](mailto:thomasmclaughlin49@gmail.com)

**To:** [Liesl Barker](mailto:liesl.barker@gustavus-ak.gov)

**Subject:** Nature Conservancy Land

**Date:** Tuesday, January 9, 2024 03:47:10

Mayor Owens and City Council,

Thank you for having the meeting last night regarding the Gustavus Nature Conservancy Land and the possible take over of that land by the Hoonah Indian Association. It is my understanding that the Hoonah Indian Association has applied to the Nature Conservancy to take over ownership of the Nature Conservancy Land in Gustavus. I guess the meeting although informative brought up more questions for me than answers.

Here are some of my questions: What is the HIA interest in this Gustavus Land? Does the HIA think that the City of Gustavus and the Nature Conservancy has done a poor job conserving this land? It sounded like the HIA is making an ancestral claim to the Nature Conservancy Land. Is that true? What is the HIA claim to ownership based on? Why did the Nature Conservancy wait two years to inform the City of Gustavus about the HIA application to take over ownership of the land?

I personally think that the Nature Conservancy and City of Gustavus has done a great job conserving this land. Thank you again for the meeting and please keep us informed of any developments with the Gustavus Nature Conservancy Land.

Thank you,

Thomas S. McLaughlin, PE Sent from my iPhone