

**Sitka Historic
Preservation
Commission**

May 20, 2020

Dear City and Borough of Sitka Assembly Members,

The Sitka Historic Preservation Commission at its regular meeting on May 13, 2020 voted unanimously to send a letter to the Assembly expressing the Commissioner's concerns and disappointment with the Assembly's action to not reappoint Anne Pollnow to her seat on the Commission.

Commission members felt strongly that Anne's many years on the Commission along with her hard work, commitment, expertise, and willingness to volunteer with other organizations were invaluable assets to the Commission.

Commissioners were also deeply concerned with the process surrounding her reappointment consideration, including the harsh letters of criticism being read aloud publicly. We felt that the letters were an attempt to silence Anne's voice on the commission and were potentially damaging to her business and reputation. While the Stevenson Hall project was a contentious one, Anne did not act alone or in malice. We are all passionate about historic preservation and do our best to encourage best preservation practices, Anne included. Our goal on the commission has always been to promote and follow federal and state historical preservation protocols.

One member put it best, this action leaves "a festering hurt" on our Commission. We are concerned about the implications of these retaliatory actions on this Commission's future decision making authority. And beyond our own Commission, this action was detrimental to all boards and commissions – it will be hard to get people to volunteer if they will be subject to similar treatment.

We wanted to write this letter to make our thoughts known to the Assembly, and also to take a moment to voice our utmost appreciation for Anne's contribution to our Commission and the whole community. She will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,



Roberta Littlefield, Chair
Sitka Historic Preservation Commission

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*City and Borough of Sitka  
100 Lincoln Street  
Sitka, AK 99835*

**Commission Members**

*Roberta Littlefield,  
Native Community, Chair*

*James Poulson.,  
Historical Society, Secretary*

*Ana Dittmar,  
At Large*

*Robert Sam,  
STA*

*Scott Saline,  
At Large*

*Candace Rutledge,  
At Large*