

Sitka Historic Preservation Commission

~~~~~

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

*www.cityofsitka.com  
(907) 747-1814*

~~~~~

Commission

*Roberta Littlefield, Chair
Anne Pollnow, Vice Chair
James Poulson., Secretary
Ana Dittmar, At Large
Bob Sam Sitka Tribe of
Alaska
Nancy Douglas, STA
alternate
Scott Saline, At Large
Kitty Sopow, At Large
Valorie Nelson, Assembly
Liaison
Lauren Moore, staff liaison
and secretary*

November 16, 2018

Alaska Historical Commission
c/o Office of History and Archaeology
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Commission,

The Sitka Historic Commission wishes to give comment regarding the naming of the lake that was created by the landslide of May 12, 2013. Kevin Knox, who survived the landslide, has proposed the name *Luna Lake* in memory of Luna the dog, who perished. While we recognize that the Alaska Historical Commission's naming guidelines are not intended to memorialize pets, we support the name for its local significance. *Luna Lake* has been in use since its origin.

To describe the new addition to the landscape, local employees of the State Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service adopted the name *Luna Lake* in the aftermath of the landslide. As reported by the applicant, a petition to have the name adopted is currently being circulated and signed, and Sitka Ranger Perry Edwards has also vouched for active local usage of the name.

The newly formed lake represents a significant geologic event in Sitka's recent history. The Commission supports the name *Luna Lake*, as it has become locally known.

Sincerely,

Lauren Moore
Sitka Historic Preservation Commission



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street • Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

SITKA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Regular Monthly Meeting

Harrigan Centennial Hall

330 Harbor Drive

November 14, 2018 6 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL: Commissioner Poulson called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Present: Douglas, Dittmar, Saline, Pollnow (by teleconference), Poulson

Absent: Littlefield (excused), Sam (excused), Assembly Liaison Nelson (excused)

Staff: Lauren Moore

Public: Kevin Knox, Pat Magnuson, Dale Dupuis, Frank Barnes, Erika Knox

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Douglas moved to approve the agenda. Saline seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Saline moved to modify the agenda to review the remodel at 719 Etolin Street first. Douglas seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) October 10, 2018 minutes with addendum regarding Item (d)

The Commission discussed necessary edits to Item (d) of the draft minutes for accuracy and suggested changes to the description of the discussion and the number of votes that carried the motion.

Pollnow moved to approve the minutes with suggested edits. Saline seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

IV. GUESTS AND/OR PERSONS TO BE HEARD

V. REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

Chair: None.

Commissioners: Poulson reported that Chair Littlefield had been notified of Alaska DOT & PF projects on Sawmill Creek Road and that the effort to clean St. Michael's Cathedral was ongoing. Pollnow stated that she was attending the National Trust for Historic Preservation PastForward conference in San Francisco, where a local initiative has established Cultural Districts (as opposed to Historic Districts) with gentrification in mind, aiming to keep people, particularly those belonging to marginalized communities, in their homes and

neighborhoods.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Staff Liaison: Moore reported that nominations for the Secretary of the Interior Historic Preservation award would be accepted through November 30.

VI. REQUESTS FOR REVIEW

a) New Business

Dale Dupuis and Patricia Magnuson - 719 Etolin Street
Remodel

Saline moved to accept the request for review. Dittmar seconded the motion. Dupuis and Magnuson stated that they had bought the house in August and intended to make extensive repairs, including of the wiring, insulation, plumbing, front porch, and windows. Commissioners discussed the short lifespan of vinyl windows and literature in the field of historic preservation, which indicates that replacing windows tends to be costlier than repairing the existing ones. Dupuis and Magnuson stated that the existing windows were fixed, so they needed to be replaced to meet life safety standards by allowing egress. They added that the windows that do open had been painted shut, and the sills needed to be repaired.

Dittmar asked when they planned to start, and Dupuis and Magnuson replied that they would begin as soon as their permit was approved. Dittmar asked about their plans for the doors. Dupuis and Magnuson said that the frames had been broken, so they would replace the interior doors and reuse the external doors in the basement and garage.

Pollnow moved to recommend approval of the request for review for a remodel at 719 Etolin Street. The motion passed 5-0.

b) New Business

Alec McGraw and Chuck McGraw, Jr. – 730 Alice Loop
New House

Saline moved to accept the request for review. Dittmar seconded the motion. The applicants were not in attendance. Poulson stated that he had no concerns. Pollnow asked whether it was possible to draft a one-page handout with advice from the Commission to distribute to potential applicants. Poulson stated that Michael Scarcelli, the former Planning Director, had intended to write the handout. Moore offered to work with the Commission to write it during her tenure.

Douglas moved to recommend approval of the request for review for new house construction at 730 Alice Loop. The motion passed 5-0.

c) New Business

Kevin Knox – “Luna Lake” Name Request

Saline moved to discuss the request. Pollnow seconded the motion. Saline asked where

the lake was, and Knox responded that it was at the eastern end of Lake Redoubt. Saline then asked whether Knox had spoken with Commissioner Sam. Knox stated that he intended to, but had not yet received a response from Sam. Saline asked about the significance of the name, and Knox replied that it was the name of his dog who had been killed in the landslide that created the lake.

Knox offered to give a detailed history of his request. Knox had been staying at the cabin with his partner and Luna when the landslide occurred on May 12, 2013, and afterward, Luna was never found. Knox was told to wait five years before submitting his request, as is protocol for naming something after a deceased person or animal. Knox also noted that the character of the valley is changing, but the lake has been judged to be stable in size. Additionally, it gets surveyed often because of its value for sockeye habitat.

Pollnow noted that the Commission's naming protocol was to prioritize the names of historic figures, and appreciated that Knox had consulted the Commission. Further, Pollnow appreciated Knox's request to name the lake after an animal. Poulson reviewed the Alaska Historical Commission's (AHC's) guidelines for naming, which is "not intended to memorialize a family member, friend, pet, or animal," and stated that Knox could make a stronger case if he were able to document a history of local usage of the name "Luna Lake."

Knox stated that the area does not receive many visitors, especially now that the cabin is gone, but "Luna Lake" is unofficially used by weir workers and the Forest Service, and has been since the immediate aftermath of the landslide. Knox noted that Sitka District Ranger Perry Edwards had submitted a letter in support of the name. Pollnow stated that the AHC's preference is for local usage drawing on long-standing use. Poulson stated that no time period is specified, and the landslide occurred five years ago.

Knox stated that a local petition, distributed less than a week ago, had so far received 100 signatures. Knox added that, as a member of the Assembly, he was not sure whether it was within the Commission's purview to bring the issue before the Assembly. Poulson replied that the Commission could make a recommendation to the Assembly.

Pollnow acknowledged that "Luna Lake" does not draw from the list of people who have been significant in Alaska's history. Saline stated his support of the name to honor Knox's survival of the landslide. The Commission discussed factors that may bolster Knox's case, including the local significance of the event in recent Sitkan history (brought up by Pollnow), the Forest Service's history of using the name (brought up by Dittmar), and the AHC's preference for "active local use" as "the single best reason to name a local feature" (brought up by Poulson).

Poulson stated that nothing is required of the Commission beyond their comments, which can be delivered to the AHC. Douglas stated that, as chair of the STA's Cultural Resources Committee, she will ensure the issue appears on the November 26 meeting

agenda. Knox stated that he would be willing to speak at the meeting, if invited. Frank Barnes, a member of the public attending the meeting, voiced his support for “Luna Lake.”

No motion was made.

- d) Section 106 Review
AK Army National Guard – 1508 Sawmill Creek Road
Remodel

Saline moved to accept the request for review. Dittmar seconded the motion. Saline stated that this building is more closely tied to the State of Alaska than the National Guard. Poulson approved of the decision to renovate rather than demolish the building and stated that it is less than 50 years old, so not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. This was confirmed by Dittmar. Pollnow confirmed that materials in the packet referenced the evaluation of the building for eligibility. Poulson stated that he had no concerns about interior remodels. Dittmar noted the request to excavate the perimeter to a depth of two feet, which Poulson confirmed was to replace insulation.

Douglas moved to recommend approval of the request for review of a remodel at 1508 Sawmill Creek Road. The motion passed 5-0.

- e) Section 106 Review
AT&T – 1330 Seward Avenue
Generator Installation

Dittmar moved to accept the request for review. Saline seconded the motion. Poulson stated his confusion about the precise location proposed for the generator, since the documents seemed to variably depict it adjacent to the UAS gym (as shown in the map) and next to the old air control tower (as shown in the elevation). Pollnow brought up the dimensions of the generator, approximately nine feet by five feet.

Dittmar echoed Poulson’s statement that the exact location was difficult to discern. Pollnow stated that the generator seemed to take up a significant amount of space behind the building, with implications for the national landmark and the landscape, and suggested recommending mitigation. Poulson added that the effects on the façade should be considered.

Dittmar quoted from the letter to the HPC of September 26, 2018, that AT&T only sought comments “regarding potential effects on historic properties.” Poulson noted that there was no statement from the State of Alaska on the project, but the Commission could still make their concerns known. Pollnow reiterated the adverse impact to historic properties. Dittmar noted that, per the same letter, AT&T had sought comment within 30 days of September 26, 2018. Poulson stated that the Commission could still go on record if construction had already begun.

Douglas moved to recommend approval of the request for review of generator installation at 1330 Seward Avenue. The motion passed 5-0.

VII. COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION – No Motions May be Made

Poulson stated that he had been surprised by Pollnow's email to KathyHope Erickson following the meeting of October 10, and that his intention was not to influence the Commission's vote but to be transparent about Chair Littlefield's son's role in the project under discussion. Pollnow stated that she appreciated Poulson's clarification.

Pollnow stated that CLG grants are open to applicants. Moore reported that the Planning Department had tentatively set December 14 as the submittal deadline and added that she would publish notice on the City's website as soon as possible.

VIII. SET NEXT MEETING DATE(S):

(2nd Wednesday of the Month, 6 PM Harrigan Centennial Hall)

Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – Regular Monthly Meeting

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Dittmar moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 PM. Douglas seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.