

**From:** Ann Gargett <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 2, 2024 9:11 AM  
**To:** Rob Pingle  
**Subject:** Baker Rd Beach proposal  
**Attachments:** BakerBeach\_comments\_Gargett.pdf

Dear Salt Spring Local Trust Committee,

As a longtime visitor to Baker Rd beach from my property on High Hill Rd, I am very concerned about the present proposal to modify the beach. FYI, I attach my submission to the province consultation. I hope that the Trust will decide against this precedent-setting proposal, especially since other options that don't impact the public beach are available to the property owners.

sincerely

Ann Gargett

I have 3 major reasons to believe that this application should be dismissed without further consideration.

1. Present law designates the shore below the high tide mark as public property, enabling public access to the shore/beach. Allowing private property owners/developers to modify the beach below the high tide line for any reason would create a highly undesirable precedent, likely with major legal implications.

2. The heavy equipment work necessary to place the proposed terrace material and offshore boulders would have major negative impact on both the extensive eel grass beds off-shore and the nearer shore critical spawning habitat of the Midshipman fish, thus on the food resources of large populations of eagles and great blue heron that gather along the beach to feed during a critical late-spring period when feeding their young.

3. It is entirely unclear how long the proposed intervention would be expected to last. Judging from the movement that has already taken place of some of the large boulders placed to protect the recent new stairs at the Baker Rd beach, it seems highly unlikely that the proposed gravel bed would last more than a few winters. What then?

Finally, a walk along the beach indicates that erosion is a serious problem for only one of the properties bringing this application. Another property along the same stretch of beach, but not part of this proposal, shows that successful erosion control can be achieved by improved drainage along with rock placement (on the owner's property) plus vegetation. For more on vegetative solutions to high-bank problems, see e.g. material on <https://polsterenvironmental.com/methods/>.

Please reject this proposal.

Ann Gargett, PhD (oceanography), FRSC