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Community pleased that development at Eagle Head Beach has stopped for now

EAGLE HEAD, Queens County, NS - Residents of Eagle Head and surrounding communities are cheering, cautiously, as the Region of Queens Municipality has revoked the development permit for a controversial development on Eagle Head Beach.

Residents and their supporters were informed late Tuesday (July 5) that the municipality withdrew the permit granted to former Halifax mayor Peter Kelly to develop property he purchased on the beloved Eagle Head Beach.

“The development permit previously issued has been revoked based on the legal advice received by the municipality’s legal counsel,” according to a Facebook post from Vicki Amirault, the area’s municipal councillor.

“I am sorry, but because this is now a legal matter I cannot provide any further comments at this time but once the legal issues have been resolved I can comment further.”

Ms. Amirault’s post is the only public acknowledgement of the stoppage that members of the grassroots group Protecting Eagle Head Beach have received.

“We’re cautiously optimistic,” said local resident Peter Leslie. “Because the municipality is sharing very little information, we don’t know very much. And we fear that a new development permit could be issued at any time. The fight is not over.”

Residents were upset when work on the site began in June, and sensitive wildlife habitats, beaver dams and wetlands were disturbed. Community members were also shocked when Kelly blocked their traditional access to the beach, which has been used by local residents and visitors for more than a century.

Since then, Nova Scotia’s Department of Environment and Climate Change fined Kelly and his contractor for disturbing a water course and ordered them to remediate. So far, residents have not seen any sign that the remediation has occurred.

For more information, please contact:

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