



Cartwright Issues

Amagansett
August 17, 2018

To the Editor:

I sympathize with your letters section frustrations. I have a few of my own, but wish they would not add to yours. For I greatly respect you and David for your amazing professional abilities and stamina. Over all The Star is a great local paper, with a great editors and writers. Yay Star!

When The Star's coverage and editorial professionalism on the Cartwright issue becomes excellent, you can certainly expect high praise from me, and many others, publicly.

However, two weeks ago, The Star led their Opinion section with a front-page editorial dismissing my defense of public rights on Cartwright "without any examination of the facts," instead championing total denial of public access without bothering to explain why that would be necessary or even legal. In the same issue, they shunted six letters calling for full investigation into the Cartwright ownership and public access rights to the end of the letters section, while simply not publishing several others.

After our positive conversation last week, I felt editorial balance would improve. However, The Star's coverage of Cartwright issues raised at last week's trustees meeting appears inadequate, as anyone can see by watching the video of the meeting on the CartwrightIsland-PublicAccess.com website, and comparing it to The Star article, with scant mention buried at the very end. All letters supporting public access again were relegated to the back of the bus.

But I was most flabbergasted when a strong letter of support and general agreement from Tim Taylor, president of Citizens for Access Rights, written in good faith for exclusive publication in The Star, was spiked, for reasons that do not appear in, and seem to violate, The

Star's printed letters policy. I hope it will appear this week.

I have made all the above mentioned documents, and much more, available for The Star and the public to examine on the CartwrightIslandPublicAccess.com website. By contrast, the Goelets have never made the actual basis and proof of their ownership claim to Cartwright available to the public to see and examine, and have refused to do so when asked. The town, if they have it, have not shared such proof with the public. What evidence or argument there may be, that they rest their ownership claim upon, however highly classified and ultra-secret, should now be put on the table for the public, trustees, town board, civic groups, courts, New York State, and all stakeholders to see, examine, and deliberate upon. Without further delay.

Any journalist worth their salt knows: There is a great story here. The Star should dig to get it. This letter is intended for exclusive publication in The Star. If you would rather, I would welcome the opportunity to write a "Guest-words" column for this week on the very under-reported McGintee/Goelet agreement, what it actually says, and what might be done about it. That would be a reporting first for The Star, and much better than discussing the meta-story of coverage. I am sure that will win The Star great praise for balanced coverage from myself and many others. Also, this letter would no longer be needed, as my concerns would be much resolved by any move towards better balance and coverage.

Ever more smart and careful folks who dig into the facts (Citizens for Access Rights (CfAR), David Buda, Blake Fleetwood, Michel Zaleski, Ray Hartjen, etc.) are coming to the same conclusion I reached: that Cartwright appears to be public land with pre-existing public rights well established there.

Sincerely,

ROD RICHARDSON