

August 13, 2013

Inclusiveness Steering Committee

Membership Issue Status Report

Bay View has just experienced the third summer of contentious debate about who we should allow as cottage owners and members. A clear majority of current members voted for change in the 2013 election. The positive vote for inclusiveness came in the face of and despite factually erroneous information from the opponents. Since the Inclusive campaign began in 2011, nine trustees have been elected or re-elected – only two of which has been openly in opposition to more inclusive membership. Fifteen Bay View clergy urged the community to vote for more inclusive membership requirements. Bay View wants to change its membership policies. Bay View wants to move on.

We ask that the Board of Trustees take responsibility for, and leadership of, the process of charting a workable path forward on membership issues. A continued hands-off policy will only escalate the community tensions. The issue will not evaporate. Going forward, proactive engagement by the BOT is critical to bringing this matter to resolution.

There are many, many reasons for the BOT to modify the membership requirements. We will not repeat them here. Left unresolved, these and related questions threaten both the short-term stability and long-term social, spiritual and economic well-being of the community.

We sincerely and emphatically ask our Trustees to reclaim the leadership role, *and announce those intentions to the community*, as an essential first step in managing the dispute and bringing Bay View members together. Only BOT ownership of the problem holds hope for avoiding round after round of bitter and divisive conflict that could easily escalate out of control and potentially destroy the community.

With Respect and Appreciation
Inclusiveness Steering Committee