

Carolyn Sundquist,
Chairman Tuftonboro Board of Selectman
240 Middle Road
Post Office Box 98
Center Tuftonboro, NH 03816

Dear Carolyn:

November 15, 2016

We are in receipt of your letter regarding the Brown road access issue. This summer David Smith, Mark Evitts, Carol and I had a series of meetings with you and Jack Parsons (Jack attend the final meeting) the purpose of which was to develop a solution, with the town's input, to the tremendous erosion problem that is occurring on our property at Brown Road. Sadly, our property has been **significantly degraded** in recent years as the trees and bushes leading to the water's edge have been trampled, destroyed and ultimately eliminated by large trucks with boat trailers backing down into the water. The soil has been heavily compressed by this activity and vegetation is no longer able to grow along the bank. The vehicle activity has created deep tire tracks along the road and into the pond and when it rains significant erosion occurs. The end result of the rain runoff is mud and debris is carried into the lake over this denuded area, polluting the pond.

Lower Beech Pond is presently at a very low level due to work on the dam located at the north end of the pond. It is now easy to see the debris that has been carried into the pond as the water no longer hides the damage. I think it would be helpful if you and the other Selectman viewed the area while the water is low to get an idea of the erosion problem. Our land was originally heavily vegetated and the bank gently sloped into the pond. Overtime, the bank has been significantly eroded and much of it has been washed into the pond. The goal of the rock barrier is simply to return the property to its original state. There was never a boat ramp at the top of the pond, but the public keeps pushing the limits with larger and larger trucks and boats and the degradation of our property continues to worsen from year to year. At our meetings we agreed the town would endeavor to replant natural vegetation along the road shoulder after we installed a rock barrier. We also discussed the town placing no parking signs along the pond side of Brown Road and asking the public to park on the opposite side of Brown Road in front of the undeveloped property my wife and I own from the culvert to the Wolfeboro town line.

The intent of keeping vehicles and boat trailers off the shoulder is to stop the abuse of our property and ultimately recreate the natural filter that was once in place so to ensure good water quality. We are hopeful this is still a possibility. In a good neighbor gesture, and discussed with you and Jack Parsons in advance, we left a 3-foot wide opening at the head of the pond to allow small boats, canoes, kayaks to be carried in. We complied with the direction of Jack Parsons to keep the rocks 3-feet back from the road so as not to interfere with plowing. Our contractor, Jake Dawson, spoke with Tuftonboro's Road Agent, Jim Bean, in advance of any work to clarify the correct placement of the rocks.

It is the large trucks and boat trailers doing the damage, and the intent of the rock barrier is to prevent ongoing destruction of our property and subsequent water pollution, while allowing people to enjoy the pond. Trash left on our property by folks entering and exiting the pond is a common occurrence and we are constantly cleaning up. The NH Fish and Game Department posted a sign at the access point, addressed to "Anglers". A photo is attached that explicitly states the expectations of those who use the area, and the consequences of violation (which has repeatedly occurred).

We have tried to be good citizens and we have worked with the town in good faith to develop a plan to address the erosion problem. A group of us banded together this summer to personally fund the rock barrier, which we view as a first step in this **Erosion Control Project**. We spent approximately \$3,500 on the project, so I'm sure you can understand our dismay when we received your request to remove the rocks. Again, our objective is simply to protect the lake and by extension the surrounding property values while enabling all to access the pond through our property. We do not want to experience the problems and costly solutions that have bedeviled Mirror Lake in recent years.

Finally, a complaint was made to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) this summer regarding the rock barrier. In September, the DES notified us of the complaint and we replied (letter attached) clarifying our position. Earlier this week the DES informed us via letter (also attached)

that after reviewing the site they found no violations and the complaint was officially closed.

We are anxious to put this matter behind us and move forward with the next steps in the Erosion Control Project. We look forward to working together to preserve and protect Lower Beech Pond.

Respectfully,

Ted and Carol Steinman

Cc Mark Evitts
David Smith