



Province Lake Association
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24 July 2018

Victor Vinagro, Code Enforcement Officer
Land Use Office
Town of Wakefield, NH
2 High Street
Sanbornville, NH 03872

Dear Victor:

I am writing to you today in regards to the proposed kayak business for Province Lake on Bonnyman Road. The Province Lake Association (PLA) had our annual meeting this past Saturday the 21st of July 2018. At that meeting, the proposed kayak business was discussed, a vote was taken of the members of the Association and it was unanimously agreed that the Association does **NOT** support the proposed business. This letter is from all 124 member-families of the Association.

There are several reasons we are not in support of this proposed business. First and foremost, Province Lake, as I believe you are aware, is on the NH Department of Environmental Services 303D list as an impaired water body for primary contact recreation and aquatic life use due to high phosphorus levels and frequent cyanobacteria blooms. In 2012 we created a watershed plan to help address the water quality issues we have. Since then, we have been working very hard with our partners NH DES, AWWA, the Towns of Wakefield & Effingham, and the residents around the lake to implement Best Management Practices (BMP's) on lake front properties and the roads to reduce the amount of runoff getting to the lake and thus lower the phosphorus loading that occurs. The proposed business will negatively impact this situation. The plan calls for the installation of a walk way to the lake through what is now an approximately 50 foot vegetated buffer between Bonnyman Road and the lake. This will create a direct path for more run off to reach the lake. In addition, the added foot traffic in the area will eventually kill off more of the vegetated buffer and just exasperate the problem. Bonnyman Road is much too close to the lake and this is a critical vegetative buffer that helps capture nutrients before they reach the lake. Silver Hill is a very steep area and washouts from the dirt accesses occur frequently. This vegetated buffer should not be disturbed.

The second reason we are not in support of this is for safety reasons. The cove, where the proposed business would be, is a high traffic cove for boats. The cove is typically fairly calm and motorized boats with skiers, tubers etc. love to use this area. Kayakers going in and out of the proposed docking area will be crossing this heavily used area, which we see as an accident waiting to happen.

Third, the proposed docking area is currently a heavily weeded area of the lake with natural weeds that are important to the lake ecosystem balance. The proposed business activity will more than likely impact the weed cover in that area.

Fourth, as I believe you are aware, Bonnyman road is a very narrow road in several places prior to getting to the proposed location. There are also several property owners who need to cross Bonnyman road to get to their water access areas. The increased traffic that will result from the proposed business will create a safety issue for those home owners that need to cross the road and will also create a safety issue for drivers in those narrow sections of the road. In addition, the customers of the proposed business will need to cross Bonnyman Road to get to the kayaks. Between the residents on Bonnyman in houses beyond the business, the campground residents and the residents on Remick Road, there is quite a bit of traffic that will pass the proposed business site. As such, there will be an increased risk of a pedestrian injury occurring. Obviously a location that doesn't require customers to cross a fairly busy public town road would make more sense than the proposed location.

Fifth, not only is Bonnyman Road too narrow in a few areas prior to the proposed location, but it is also in very bad disrepair. The increased traffic is just going to make this situation worse, which in turn will result in excessive and undue burden on the Towns Public Works Department.

Finally, although we can appreciate that the Zoning can allow a "business" in this totally residential area, this use in this area certainly doesn't fit the character of the area.

This letter represents the concerns of the membership of the Province Lake Association. We hope the Planning Board will carefully consider the impacts outlined above and the importance this vegetated buffer has on an already fragile lake.

Sincerely,

Mindy Schuman-Vye
President, PLA