
Subject: Fwd: Eagle Lake Boat Launch

From: jere paddack (jerepaddack@yahoo.com)

To: tbfeffer@gmail.com; camptouchstone@yahoo.com; cdhyde1@gmail.com;

Date: Monday, March 4, 2019 3:30 PM

Response from sect. To spa admin. Jere

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Streiff, Susan A (APA)" <Susan.Streiff@apa.ny.gov>
Date: March 4, 2019 at 1:55:26 PM EST
To: jere paddack <jerepaddack@yahoo.com>
Subject: RE: Eagle Lake Boat Launch

I received your email and will make sure to distribute to Terry and Karen.

Thank you for taking the time to comment on this matter.

Susan Streiff

Secretary to the Executive Director

NYS Adirondack Park Agency

PO Box 99

1133 NYS Route 86

Ray Brook, NY 12977

(518) 891-4050 | Fax: (518) 891-3938 | Susan.Streiff@apa.ny.gov

www.apa.ny.gov

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From: jere paddack <jerepaddack@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, March 04, 2019 1:44 PM
To: Streiff, Susan A (APA) <Susan.Streiff@apa.ny.gov>
Subject: Fw: Eagle Lake Boat Launch

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Dear Mr. Martino and Ms. Feldman :

The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is planning on restricting a public boat launch on Eagle Lake in Essex County that discriminates against senior citizens, is in clear violation of the ADA Act, and prevents reasonable access to our property by us and emergency services.

We would like to enlist your help in resolving this issue as soon as possible.

I have included a copy of the letter sent to Robert Stegemann at the DEC.

Sincerely,

Jere and Birgitta Paddack

jerepaddack@yahoo.com

(609) 883-5281

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: jere paddack <jerepaddack@yahoo.com>

To: robert.stegemann@dec.ny.gov <robert.stegemann@dec.ny.gov>; basil.seggos@dec.ny.gov <basil.seggos@dec.ny.gov>; supervisor@townofticonderoga.org <supervisor@townofticonderoga.org>; Chris Hyde <cdhyde1@gmail.com>; Rolf Tiedemann <camptouchstone@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, March 4, 2019, 1:31:30 PM EST

Subject: Eagle Lake Boat Launch

Robert Stegemann

Regional Director Region 5

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

1115 NYS Route 86

PO Box 296

Ray Brook, NY 12977-0296

Dear Mr. Stegemann:

As senior citizens who have spent a significant portion of the past 25 years living on Eagle Lake in Essex County, and who have paid substantial sums in property taxes, we are shocked that the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is considering blocking our ability to access our summer home in a safe manner. Closing the boat launch on Eagle Lake would create a significant risk of injury to us; it would prohibit us from transporting anything more than a few small bags to our house; and it would significantly impair, if not altogether prohibit, first responders from being able to help my wife or me in case of an emergency. This proposed change is unjust, discriminatory, and, frankly, cruel.

Our house is one of the few on Eagle Lake with no road access. We are completely surrounded by state forest and the topography of the land prohibits the possibility of creating one. The only access we have is over water—in essence, our one and only “road” is the lake. This has been the case for almost 100 years. Since our home was built in 1920 (50 years before the DEC/APA was created), we and the prior owners have relied on the boat launch to carry supplies and materials in and out of the property. We purchased the house a quarter of a century ago relying on that access. Over that time, in order to maintain the property we brought all of the equipment and materials across the lake by boat. We could not have done this without the boat launch, since there are no other public or private launches on the southern section of Eagle Lake. Without the boat launch, we would not be able to continue to maintain the upkeep of the property. Home maintenance requires tools and materials that cannot be hauled in a kayak. Without doubt, blocking this access would dramatically reduce the value of our property.

While those are important maintenance and economic considerations, the need to maintain the boat launch is vital for even more essential reasons. I am 81 years old and my wife is 76. We spend at least three months each year living full-time at Eagle Lake. We need to have a stable watercraft that we can safely enter and exit without risk of falling, and that would allow us to bring water, food, propane and guests to the property. And in stormy weather, let alone calm weather, it would be extremely difficult or impossible for us to paddle back and forth to our property. And without the boat launch, there would be no way for emergency services to reach our property should the need arise. Closing the boat launch would create a significant risk to our, our family's, and our guest's safety. There have also been times in the past where firefighters have had to assist in fires on the lake and closing the boat launch would leave us without protection. At a time when venues are increasingly improving accessibility, it is shocking that the DEC is even considering an action that would prohibit senior citizens and those with disabilities from accessing a home for which they pay property taxes.

We sincerely appreciate the DEC's effort to reduce the impacts of invasive species to our lake, as well as other lakes in the region. We have seen first-hand the damage these invasive species can do in a short period of time and very much worry about the long-term impacts. Our home owners association, ELPOI (Eagle Lake Property Owner's Inc.) has tried for many years to eliminate milfoil, sometimes without assistance from the state authorities. However, closing the boat launch without ensuring alternative equivalent access for homeowners who rely on it cannot be the answer. We urge the DEC to immediately to abandon this plan and encourage a face to face meeting with ELOPI officers to discuss alternatives.

We are forwarding a copy of this email to Assembly Member Dan Stec, Senator Elizabeth Little, Terry Martino (APA), and Karen Feldman (APA).

Please send acknowledgment of receipt of this letter to my email at: jerepaddack@yahoo.com.

Jere and Birgitta Paddack

75 Upper Ferry Rd.

Ewing, NJ 08628

(609) 883-5281

cc:

Basil Seggos, DEC Commissioner

Joseph Giordano, Town of Ticonderoga Supervisor

Chris Hyde, Property Owner and President of ELPOI

Rolf Tiedemann, Property Owner, Past President and Current Treasurer of ELPOI