



# Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.



– President: Keith Park – Vice President Chris Hyde– Secretary: Edward Leahy – Treasurer: Rolf Tiedemann –  
31 Barkwood Lane, Clifton Park, NY 12065 ~ [www.eaglelake1.org](http://www.eaglelake1.org)  
ELPOI is a totally volunteer run 501(c)(3) not-for-profit

June 2, 2023

Ms. Megan Phillips  
NYS Adirondack Park Agency  
P.O. Box 99  
1133 NYS Route 86  
Ray Brook, NY 12977

Dear Ms. Phillips,

On behalf of the Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. (ELPOI) Board Members I want to thank you for meeting with us on February 1, 2023. While we appreciate you informing us that you have decided to close the Eagle Lake boat launch to float on/off trailer boat launching, we are, of course, disappointed that you have decided to deviate from the adopted Hammond Pond Unit Management Plan (UMP) without due process.

The UMP includes three options for the launch: 1) No action, 2) Close the launch to trailered launching and 3) Perform a study for up to five years to determine the best course of action based on specific study requirements which are outlined in the UMP. At the end of Option 3 the UMP states, in bold print, **“Given the context of this particular site, this alternative is the preferred alternative for Eagle Lake.”** Clearly option 3 was the chosen alternative in the plan and the one that anyone providing public reaction to the plan would focus upon. Text for this 3rd option was specifically included as a collaborative effort of the APA, DEC, citizen input and the State Senator and Assembly.

Alarming, without conducting any study whatsoever and without public input, APA has abandoned the clear intent of the UMP and elected Option 2, closure of the launch to float on/off trailer boat launching of boats.

During the meeting, when we asked you about the basis for the decision to close the launch you were clear that it was a totally pedantic decision based on the size of the lake. When ELPOI members raised questions about the impact on people with boat only access to their property, public safety and impact on public use of the lake, you were very clear that there was no threshold of any

of these factors that would impact your decision, hence you made a unilateral decision not to conduct the study called for in Option 3 as the preferred option in the UMP.

You did inform us, and later provide a copy, of a boat count taken by the Department of Environmental Conservation, but were clear that it was not a factor in your decision. At one point you chuckled and said the only thing that would impact the decision would be if we made the lake two and half times as big as it is. It is disappointing that an appointed official would find humor in denying people the access to the lake that they have enjoyed or property they have owned for generations.

We are further troubled by the summary of the meeting that you shared with us. The summary seems to be from an entirely different meeting because you imply that you used the boat count to inform the decision to close the launch. However, your count included the number of boats seen at docks, in driveways or on the water, with absolutely no analysis of whether the boat use exceeds the lake's carrying capacity, or even a determination of what the capacity is for Eagle Lake. This is troublesome because those of us that spend time at the lake are well aware that while there are many boats at docks on the lake, it is unusual to see more than a handful being used (on the busiest of weekends) at any given time.

ELPOI members are in favor of protecting the Lake and the entire Adirondack Park and would support not building a new launch on a small lake. But closing a launch that has operated with no ill effect for decades makes no sense. As you know, Essex County, the Town of Ticonderoga and the Eagle Lake Property Owners are all against this unwarranted closure of the Eagle Lake Boat launch.

ELPOI members ask the APA to follow through with the preferred Option 3, in accordance with the UMP, and conduct a five-year study of the impact of the boat launch on Eagle Lake or at least open up the change to the UMP to public input..

ELPOI looks forward to APA's response on next steps that will be taken to ensure that any decision regarding the boat launch is based on a longitudinal study as envisioned by Option 3 of the UMP.

Sincerely,

*Keith Park*

Keith Park, President  
For the ELPOI Board

CC:  
Governor Kathy Hochul