

Friends of Hanover Crew
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To: Hanover Board of Selectmen
From: Friends of Hanover Crew
Subj: Potential Conditions for Use of Wilson's Landing by Friends of Hanover Crew
Date: October 9, 2009

Below, boldfaced and highlighted in yellow, are the Friends of Hanover Crew's (FOHC) comments regarding potential conditions for (FOHC) use of Wilson's Landing either raised by the Board of Selectmen following their meeting on September 14, 2009, or proposed by Jonathon Edwards in his memo of September 10, 2009 to Julia Griffin.

Site Access and Circulation:

FOHC: The site access and circulation conditions are consistent with FOHC's own plans, and are acceptable.

1. There shall be no automotive use of the access driveway from Route 10 into Wilson's Landing by:
 - a. Hanover High School Crew participants and coaches.
 - b. Rowers associated with any organization affiliated with the Friends of Hanover Crew and using Fullington Farm.
 - c. Those who store canoes and kayaks at Fullington Farm. **The Select board indicated it did not want the landing to become a second site for Dartmouth College. FOHC is in complete agreement and under the terms of the non-negotiable easement with Dartmouth College in the deed to the property, Dartmouth is limited to storing no more than 20 canoes or kayaks on the Fullington property. FOHC is also willing to allow them to park on the Fullington site in order to keep related vehicles off the landing.**
 - d. Participants in or spectators of rowing events, such as races and regattas, except in connection with the launching and landing of motorized boats which are to be used for an event by rowing officials and by coaches from visiting crews and which are not normally stored at the site.
 - e. Agents of the Friends of Hanover Crew, except for:
 - Pre-season installation of the dock and related appurtenances and coaching launches;
 - Post-season removal of these items;
 - Repairs to the dock or bulkhead that may be necessary during the season; and
 - A vehicle containing gasoline and similar bulky or heavy materials, and accessory equipment such as oars and boat parts, between the site and Fullington Farm.

2. Rowing shells and sculls shall be carried on foot between the site and Fullington Farm:
 - a. In carrying their boats, rowers, canoeists, and kayakers shall keep to the southerly side of the roadway, especially along the causeway, in order to keep a reasonable amount of room for vehicles such as cars and boat trailers belonging to the general public in accessing or leaving the site.
 - b. Rowers, canoeists, and kayakers also shall not carry boats along the roadway to the east beyond the junction with the roadway of the footpath connecting into Fullington Farm.

FOHC: These are consistent with FOHC's own plans, and are acceptable conditions. It is our understanding that these (as well as the conditions in paragraph 1) would only apply to rowers and shells stored at or using Fullington as a staging ground, and would not apply to recreational rowers not using Fullington. Wilson's Landing and the boat launch are currently used by recreational rowers who car-top their boats to Fullington and park and unload from there, which we assume would continue.

Dock and Waterfront Area:

FOHC: These conditions are all acceptable to FOHC.

1. FOHC's only permanent alteration of the site shall be for the installation of a suitable bulkhead to which the dock ramp will be affixed, for a graded walkway to the ramp, and for minor regrading of adjacent areas of the site, consistent with plans and conditions approved by permitting agencies. **FOHC agrees there will be no other structures on the site.**
2. FOHC shall install, maintain, and remove the dock strictly in accordance with the standards and conditions specified by the relevant local, state, and federal permits.
 - a. With the consultation of the Department of Public Works, FOHC shall install the dock and its access ramp not sooner than March 15th of each year.
 - b. With the consultation of the Department of Public Works, FOHC shall remove the dock and its access ramp not later than November 30th of each year.
 - c. FOHC may store the dock and access ramp during the winter on the site's parking lot in a location acceptable to the Public Works Department. **FOHC would prefer to store the dock on the Fullington Farm property if that is acceptable to the Board of Selectmen.**

If the Select board prefers, FOHC will donate the dock to the Town, but retain the responsibility for installing, maintaining, removing and storing the dock as set out below.

3. Motorized coaches launches shall be chained and locked on the shoreward side of the rowing dock:
 - a. The motors shall be locked as well.
 - b. Gasoline cans, **gasoline lines**, and "kill switches" shall be removed from the site at the end of each practice.
 - c. No other boat of any type shall be stored at the dock overnight.

FOHC understands the Selectboard's concern about a potential "marina effect" from storing the coaching launches on the dock. FOHC believes this should not be an issue for several reasons: (1) because of natural screening from the existing trees and shrubs along the shore, neither the dock nor the launches will be visible from Fullington Farm, abutters' property, from Route 10 or from the parking area of Wilson's Landing (it will be visible to those picnicking at the water's edge, however); (2) for at least five months of the year there will be no launches or dock at all; (3) the launches and dock are low profile and neutral colors; and (4) except for the 10 weeks in spring when the full HHS Crew program is in operation, there will only be four or fewer launches on the dock. Finally, these launches are currently stored on the shore of the river further downstream, and there have been no complaints about a marina effect.

4. Gasoline supplies shall not be stored on the site.
 - a. A vehicle containing gasoline and similar bulky or heavy materials, and accessory equipment such as oars and boat parts, may be parked at times when practices or events are underway, near the head of the dock access ramp.
 - b. When not directly attended, those portions of the vehicle containing gasoline, gasoline tanks, and gasoline lines shall be fully locked.
5. FOHC may install a small cabinet or set of cubby-holes near the landward end of the dock ramp for storage of rowers' shoes and other personal items during rowing.
6. FOHC shall install and maintain a courteously worded sign, approved by the Town Manager, stating rules and expectations for the mutually considerate use of the rowing dock by rowers and by members of the general public:
 - a. This sign shall inform the public that they are welcome to use the rowing dock for non-motorized boats. **FOHC takes no position on excluding motorized boats from use of the dock because it believes it can accommodate all users – however this is up to the town to decide.**
 - b. It shall also advise that, because of the size and weight of the rowing shells, members of the public are requested to yield the access ramp and the outboard of the dock for the launching and landing of rowing shells.
 - c. It shall request all dock users not to linger on or alongside the dock out of courtesy to rowers, canoeists, and kayakers when they wish to launch or land their boats.
 - d. The sign shall also state that sunbathing on and swimming from the dock are not allowed. **FOHC takes no position on excluding swimmers/sunbathers from use of the dock because it believes it can accommodate all users – however this is up to the town to decide.**
7. FOHC and coaches shall admonish rowers to launch and land their boats expeditiously so as to keep the dock clear for other rowers and for the general public to the fullest extent practicable.

8. FOHC shall delineate an area in which the general public may not park vehicles or trailers so as not to block rowers' access onto the rowing dock:
 - a. FOHC may also provide a suitable sign designating this area and warning against blocking access to the dock.
 - b. FOHC may, if necessary, plant a post, bollard, or other device to prevent vehicles from parking directly in front of the dock access.

9. FOHC shall install and maintain a courteously worded sign, approved by the Town Manager, by the access to the Town Dock stating that:

FOHC takes no position on use restrictions or wording for the sign for the existing Town Dock.

 - a. This dock's primary purpose is for motor boats.
 - b. Rowing shells and sculls, and launches used by rowing coaches and officials, may not use this dock
 - c. This dock is otherwise available for use by the general public, including canoeists and kayakers.
 - d. Members of the public are requested to yield the access ramp and the outboard of the dock for motorboat use, all users are requested not to linger on the dock out of courtesy to each other.
 - e. Sunbathing on and swimming from the dock are not allowed.

Use Schedule:

1. Practices by the Hanover High School Crew shall not begin until ___AM and shall not continue after ___PM.

Or Not more than ___ shells shall conduct practices before 7:00 AM or after 6:00 PM.

FOHC proposal: Practices by the HHS Crew shall be held between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. COMMENT: As noted in our proposed operational plan, if a crew goes out in the morning, it would not also be going out in the afternoon and vice versa.

2. Practices by any visiting secondary school crew shall abide by these same time limitations.

 3. Coached practices involving a **coaching launch and** boats carrying more than two rowers and coxswain (doubles and 2+) by any organization which is affiliated with FOHC and which stores equipment at Fullington Farm, shall not begin until ___AM and shall not continue after ___PM.
- Or** Coached practices involving more than ___ boats carrying more than two rowers and coxswain (doubles and 2+) by any organization which is affiliated with FOHC and which stores equipment at Fullington Farm shall not take place before 7:00 AM or after 6:00 PM.

FOHC proposal: Coached practices involving a coaching launch and boats carrying more than two rowers (fours and eights) by any organization which is affiliated with FOHC and which stores equipment at Fullington Farm shall be held between 5:00 a.m. and 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to dusk.

5. For “Dual meets,” that is, races involving the Hanover High School Crew (**or, during the Summer or Fall season, the UVRF Team**) and one **or two other teams**, the finish line may be located near Wilson’s Landing, provided that parking for all participants and spectators be provided at Fullington Farm or at some other location. **FOHC: In addition, there will be no boat trailers, food vendors, or team tents on Wilson’s Landing for Dual Meets.**
4. For rowing races and regattas **other than Dual Meets (i.e.** involving more than **two** competing teams), the finish line shall not be near Wilson’s Landing, in order that the site not become so crowded with event participants and spectators that other members of the public would be unduly inconvenienced or prevented from using the site.

FOHC agrees to limit the number of races to two “Dual Meets” per season without prior approval. There is no need to specify a limit on the number of “regattas” that are held from the Chieftain site, since they do not have any impact on Wilson’s Landing.

6. FOHC shall allow no other organization to utilize the dock or the site for any regatta or racing event without the specific prior concurrence of the Town.

FOHC comment: FOHC can only agree to this to the extent that FOHC has control over other organizations (i.e. the organization is using FOHC’s Fullington Property)

7. In advance of any regatta or racing event, FOHC shall notify the Hanover Public Works Department and shall make provision for increased use of the site dumpster and sanitary facilities as directed by the Public Works Department. **FOHC**

comment: FOHC is amenable to this condition, but intends to instruct its rowers, volunteers, spectators and visiting teams not to use any facilities on the Landing but instead to use the sanitary facilities and trash disposal on the Fullington Farm site.

8. Electrically amplified sound devices, such as bullhorns, shall not be used in connection with any practice or racing event before 7:00 AM and after 6:00 PM. Traditional, unamplified megaphones may be used at any time between sunrise and sunset. **For safety reasons, FOHC must be allowed to continue to use electrically amplified bullhorns on the river as we currently do. We would be willing, however, to agree not to use them on the landing or the Fullington property before or after the times listed above.**

Other concerns/proposed conditions raised by the Select Board:

1. Limit length of dock to 120 feet with some boats launching from Dartmouth/Chieftain and some from Wilson’s Landing.

FOHC has proposed a 180 foot dock to minimize time spent on the landing, which will also minimize noise and congestion, and to maximize the practice time for the high school kids. There is an extremely limited amount of daylight before school in

the spring. FOHC and the HHS coaching staff is strongly committed to keeping the crew program together for a number of practical and philosophical reasons. On a daily basis, the different teams (girls, boys, novices, varsity) share boats, athletes, coaches, oars, spare parts, safety equipment, coaching launches and parent volunteers. In addition, the team travels and races on a weekly basis as one unit – again sharing boats, equipment, trailers, and buses and jointly sharing the work of packing, cleaning and disinfecting boats and oars, rigging and unrigging, and loading and unloading. Dispersing the team to different locations would significantly, and negatively, impact the existing program and would only be considered as a last resort.

2. Busing rowers to Fullington from HHS to reduce number of vehicles on Fullington. Due to educational efforts by the coaching staff and to the obvious advantages of car-pooling in the early morning hours, our surveys have shown that the 120 student-athletes on the HHS team only park approximately 30 cars on a daily basis from 5 – 7:30 a.m. Coaching and volunteer’s vehicles add another 10 cars. All these vehicles are gone by the time most people wake up. Due to the limited amount of time before school, our athletes already arise by 4:15 a.m. in order to get to practice and then to school. Adding even 15 additional minutes in order to first drive to the school and then take a bus is impractical and unfair. We are willing to work on arranging busing after practice to pick up the athletes and take them to school.
3. Limit use of the dock to HHS Crew only and exclude the community rowing program (“UVRF”) from using the docks. First, it is important to understand, as laid out in detail in our proposed operational plan, that UVRF is a much smaller program (about ½ the size) than HHS crew, and operates primarily during different seasons than HHS Crew. While HHS crew launches 12 – 14 boats every morning in the spring (up to the first week in June), UVRF launches fewer than ½ that number on a more staggered basis during the summer season (after HHS has stopped rowing). In the fall, UVRF has only 2 – 4 boats launching. UVRF’s use, therefore, has much less of an impact than HHS. Second, it makes no sense to exclude a community group from using a public dock when it is not otherwise being used. Finally, it will be extremely difficult to raise the necessary money, and fund the ongoing operations, without the financial support of the community rowing group and residents who wish to see a broad community benefit in addition to HHS crew.

Remaining conditions proposed by the Selectboard **(these are all acceptable to FOHC)**:

4. Improvements to the riparian buffer along Wilson’s Landing/buffer management plan as per Joint River Commissions Recreation Plan.
5. Install fencing to delimit parking area and to discourage pedestrian use of vegetated area to the south of the parking lot.
6. Completion of hydrologic analysis as per Watershed Council recommendation.

7. HHS Crew Team fall and spring clean-up detail (mid-fall; late May or early June) to encourage rower stewardship of the Landing.
8. HHS Crew Team to adopt the trail adjacent to Wilson's Landing for maintenance purposes.