

To: Hanover Select Board
From: John and Alice Creagh
Date: October 21, 2009
Subject: Wilson's Landing and the Fullington Farm Concerns

I must admit to being very frustrated at the end of the meeting on October 19, 2009. I never heard the the board mention how granting the Friends of Hanover Crew permission to pursue changes at Wilson's Landing and/or Fullington Farm would impact the character of this rural residential neighborhood. John and I are hoping that the Select Board will consider the impact that 120 students plus some 10 adults will have on Wilson's Landing/ Fullington Farm. We encourage the Board to think about compromises that will protect the environment and the neighborhood while still giving the Hanover Crew team a "place of it's own".

Please consider restricting crew team use of the landing and/or the farm to between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM:

1. This one concession would allow families to sleep until a reasonable time.
No matter how considerate or well behaved over one hundred people try to be, there is no way for them to enter the farm and proceed to the river without considerable noise.
2. It would allow the early morning fisherman to be out on the water in an undisturbed environment.
3. It would help maintain a safe environment for the rowers so they would not be entering the Connecticut River in the dark. As you all know there is plenty of debris and ice floating down the river during the spring thaw, which makes rowing in the predawn hours dangerous.

There is no lighting on the back of the barn, no lighting on the back of the farm house, no lighting on the right of way and no lighting on Wilson's landing. We truly believe that this fact alone will make it impossible for students and adults to walk safely carrying a very long shells before dawn.

It is our understanding that the Friends of Hanover Crew object to not being able to use Wilson's Landing and the Fullington Farm before 7:00 AM because of the availability of coaches. We understand that some of the coaches that are now hired will not be available at 3:30 in the afternoon. While in the short run it might be difficult for a few coaches to rearrange their schedules or be replaced, starting before 7:00 AM will have a profound impact on the peace and tranquility of our home and the homes of our neighbors for the rest of our lives. **Coaches come and go, homes are here forever.**

In order to protect Wilson's landing, FoHC must compromise about its use of the landing and/or other rowing facilities in the Upper Valley.

1. Some boats could launch from Dartmouth's facilities (even launching at 5:00 AM and therefore saving coaches "jobs") and some of the other shells could launch from the Chieftan.
2. Both Dartmouth's and the Chieftan's facility are already established. Four or five shells and launches leaving from those venues would save lots of wear and tear on Wilson's Landing and help maintain its environmental integrity.
3. If a new dock is needed at Wilson's Landing it could be much smaller than the 180 foot dock that has been proposed. The reason we were given for the need for such a large dock was so that boats could be launched in a very short period of time. We have been told that a speedy launch would enable a longer practice (by 10 or so minutes?). Considering the environmental impact a dock of this size would make, to save 10 minutes of practice time, seems ludicrous to us.
4. Using the facilities at Dartmouth and the Chieftan would eliminate the need for motorized launches being stored at Wilson's landing, which is a totally unsupervised area except for occasional Hanover Police patrols.

While using the Fullington Farm for anything other than a family residence or a farm seems incredibly sad to us. We accept that we will not be able to control who has purchased the Fullington Farm property. The barn will be used for boat storage, the farm house will be used for meetings. Using already established rowing docks at Dartmouth and the Chieftan will lessen the need for 50 new parking spaces to be installed at the farm and will lessen the need for huge storage sheds and a gasoline distribution place to be constructed at the farm.

Our last note is about trust and the need for fence building. The FoHC stated in their paper, about why they needed to use Wilson's Landing, that Dartmouth would no longer be available to them and that the NCAA rules made it impossible for them to row anymore from Dartmouth. After Alice called each of these organizations we found out that neither of these "facts" were true.

Thank you Brian Walsh for delaying this decision making until the next meeting. There are just so many issues that need to be looked at much more closely so that everyone in this quagmire gets some of what they want....for the sake of the kids involved, no one needs to get everything the request.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Cc: Julia Griffin, Hanover Town Manager

