

October 21, 2009

Dear Selectmen,

FoHC is an incredible local asset and I believe the Town should do everything they can to encourage the group's success and growth. This said, I also would point out that having FoHC answer feasibility questions about other rowing sites is like asking a fox to guard a henhouse.

I have lived on the river for 25 years and can tell you, as anyone who lives on the river can tell you, the ice goes out from Lyme to Ledyard in *one night-the same night!* (Ironically, the ice that remains is shore ice around shallow areas like those where FoHC proposes to put their Fullington docks.) FoHC's claim that they would have a two-week or one-third shorter season at Chieftain is completely untrue. The claim they won't be able get down the Chieftain driveway at the beginning of the season seems equally convenient (if we can keep Pinneo Hill open, anything is possible). And I believe it's the same with their assessments of the other sites- FoHC is doing everything in their power to create or overstate obstacles to all but the Fullington option. This misinformation is fouling an effort and group that I would like to support.

And now FoHC has come out and said they cannot compromise on numbers, dock size, or hours of operation which, to me, is completely unreasonable. Please recall that the area around the boat landing is zoned rural residential. *Residential*. I don't hear anyone speaking for the abutters- *the residents*.

A show of hands- who among us who would feel comfortable with 100 plus teenagers descending on their backyard at 5 am on weekday mornings?

And a quick history that I'm not sure you're aware of- The Fullington lot is less than the 3-acre minimum required by RR3 zoning. Dartmouth sought and received a special exception (that was not contested by abutters) and throughout the process implied that the house would be kept as a residence. The ink was not dry on the approval before the property was slipped to FoHC. Welcome to the neighborhood. Since then FoHC has continually given lip service to being a good neighbor; they have politely invited abutters to share in information sessions and continually asked for input, yet failed to make ONE COMPROMISE to their concerns!

As I said in a previous letter, Dartmouth deserves to be released from the shackles of their generosity and FoHC deserves a more permanent home on the river. By the same token, abutters to the Fullington property deserve to keep at least some of the residential components of their neighborhood. From misleading statements concerning other options, to complete unwillingness to compromise with abutters, FoHC has not yet shown the attributes of a good neighbor. Given this it is critical that an intelligent and independent third party step in and provide balance. I believe the selectman can and should be this third party. Please do not support the FoHC proposal without imposing conditions that will insure a fair outcome and peaceable neighborhood.

Best,
Jeff Hastings

