

Chairman Lyon

Zoning Board

Town of New London

New London, New Hampshire



Re: Dowd Family Variance Application

Dear Chairman Lyon,

I have had a chance to review the letters that were written to your board with regard to our variance application. I note the 3 opposing letters come from the same family who neighbor us to the east and whose homes all reside on Burpee Hill Rd, close to 2 miles high above our home on the lake. They share the dock next to us and we see them infrequently during the day when they are visiting the waterfront. Coincidentally, one of the family members asked to speak with me last weekend as I paddled past their dock with my daughter. He mentioned that when we have visitors (that are actually our children), parking in front of their property sometimes becomes crowded. My response was that we would move my son's car right away from in front of their woods and any over flow parking in the future would be elsewhere (i.e. Columbus Ave). That was the first time I had heard from them on this matter and it was quickly and easily resolved ending with a handshake and a friendly goodbye. This exchange was also **before** I saw these letters of opposition.

The concerns that were shared can easily be addressed. We are not expanding to add more people. There are 5 of us and that will not change. The difference is that our children are now adults and a little extra space for mom and dad to have breathing room is all we are looking for. We maintain our septic system each and every year and have been assured that it is in great shape with virtually no issues.

With respect to the intensity of use of the waterfront, there will be virtually no change whatsoever. Yes, we are a waterskiing family and hope to be for many years to come. Isn't that what summer on the lake Sunapee is supposed to be about? We are always respectful of the state boating regulations and my kids all have boating licenses and have taken the safety courses. We are considerate of smaller boats. Unfortunately, we cannot control the boat traffic on the weekends from people living elsewhere and visiting our cove although we certainly would love to do so.

The neighbors to our northwest who are so physically close to us have written a thoughtful letter not of opposition but, instead, sharing their concerns, all of which have been satisfactorily addressed and mutually resolved. They are lovely people and are the only ones who would be potentially impacted by this project. Once they learned what we were intending to do, they were completely comfortable and supportive of our desire to improve our space without altering their lake experience.

Finally, I have spent every summer of my life on Lake Sunapee and nobody cares more than I do about its' preservation. I have served on the LSPA Board and was a weed watch volunteer for many years. I was also a flag officer at the Lake Sunapee Yacht Club for 9 years. I currently serve on the board of The Fells in Newbury and my children have served on a voluntary basis around the lake in the past. They know how important it is to protect and preserve our beautiful lake. I would challenge those who are opposing to demonstrate what voluntary roles they have undertaken to help protect Lake Sunapee and its watershed over these many years that they have enjoyed the lake.

Thank you for your consideration of our application and you can be assured that we will do this project the right way and with consideration for all.

Sincerely,

John & Linda Dowd