

Town of Littleton Conservation Commission
37 Shattuck St.
Littleton MA 01460

October 19, 2025

Sarah Foss
4 Cedar Rd.
Littleton MA 01460

Dear Commissioners:

Thank you for considering my comments regarding the use of Town land parcel U12-14-0.

The health of Long Lake is, and has been, paramount to me since I learned how fragile an area like this is. I'm thrilled to see the Commission take action to manage and protect this pond particularly since it's on DEP's list of Impaired Waterways in Massachusetts.

I surmise that this hearing is about two issues: 1.) People using Town land as if it's their own, and 2.) not following the Wetlands Bylaws. Some residents are unaware of both of those realities and see this as a "witch hunt". Some abutters are, or were, under the impression that they own parts of the parcel. I would encourage the Commission to inspect (if they have not done so already) the lots that truly are privately owned and ensure they are compliant as well.

I have a moderate understanding of 310 CMR 10.00 from tenure on the Open Space and Clean Lakes Committees, preservation efforts for Long Lake Park and broad involvement in the project to mitigate stormwater impact that was performed in the early 2000s with the expert guidance of the Littleton Water Department. I've spoken to several area residents whom I witnessed altering the buffer zone. I informed them that it's Town-owned land and not legal unless permitted by your commission. I tried to educate them on how their actions negatively impact the ecosystem. Several, including one of the unpermitted dock builders and owners, ignored me and continued doing as they please. This leaves the quandary of, "Do I tattle and stir up a feud, or mind my own business and hope they get caught or mend their ways?" I'd have a much clearer conscience if I had reported the infractions. Sadly, you can't make people care, but they sure can get real defensive if something negatively impacts them.

A couple of remarks regarding the photos and documentation for this hearing:

1. The "no parking" sign (item 24) at the end of Birch Rd has been there for the 47 years I've lived here. Did the Town install it umpteen years ago? Who knows.

2. Items 19: the gravel fill near the big boulder at Cedar Rd was part of a repair by the Town a couple of years ago- forgotten exactly when, but it was less than five. I notified the DPW that the pavement was crumbling and entering the buffer zone. We often see people park there to fish and observe the view from the rock. DPW performed a repair that included the stones. The patch is clearly visible, as are the pavement stress cracks; photo below taken 10/15/25.



3. Watercraft 19 is our rowboat. It's tied to a cinderblock. Both are there seasonally and stored in our yard during winter. If the Commission allows it and decides we need a permit we will happily comply. It's a small boat, but it's on the heavy side and moving it in and out of the water for every use requires some effort.
4. There are many daily visitors of all types to the area; walkers, bikers, anglers, boaters and winter sports enthusiasts. Not all of them are residents of the neighborhood, or even Littleton. Some of the docks, floats and watercraft mentioned belong to people who live away from the shore. Some are abandoned.

It's my sincerest hope that the Commission will implement a BMP for the Long Lake area that includes control of invasive species, maintenance of the shoreline, and proper snow removal procedures. Please consider taking a more active role in this area to help protect this precious resource and educate the residents in proper practices.

Counselor Harrington's letter is quite clear. Some years ago a home that was built on Harwood Ave encroached on the Town Forest property. The Commission made them relocate the part of the structure (garage?) that was on municipal land and comply with the Wetlands Bylaw. It sure made a point. If the unpermitted structures here are allowed to remain, how can you fairly permit new ones, and where is the line drawn on how many are allowed?

Please remember that old adage: "*It's easier to beg forgiveness than get permission*".

Sincerely,

Sarah Foss