

To: Littleton Conservation Commission

November 13, 2025

Subject: Lake Shore Drive Conservation Parcel U12-14-0

Thank you all for considering regulating the shoreline on public parcel U12-14-0 on behalf of our gem Long Lake. For decades the Town has been instrumental in providing services to slow the eutrophication of Long Lake, including the Restoration Project 25 years ago, Eco Harvesting, Herbicide Treatments and so on. Over this time, I've learned that Long Lake is a fragile body of water and every effort, small or large, can impact the lake's health. In fact, Long Lake is listed on the Massachusetts DEP's list of Impaired Waterways.

Over the 45+ years I've lived on Long Lake, there have been many docks. My son and I maintained a dock that was abandoned by a neighbor that moved away. As this inherited dock deteriorated, we removed it and did not replace it.

As Long Lake is a recreational destination, boating and watercrafts will be on the lake for years to come. Lake front docks are common and have been a part of lake life forever, but their use has taken a toll on the shoreline (U12-14-0) – with manmade paths, stairs and railings, non-wetland plantings and at times piles of debris.

Any number of the above-mentioned alterations and dock installations have some measurable impact on Long Lake's health. Removing these alterations and docks also could have a similar effect on the lake's health and wetland parcel.

Parcel U12-14-0 includes several viewing benches and are enjoyed by all. I cut the grass around one of these benches (between Cedar and Birch Roads). I believe the Town cuts the grass closer to the beach. As a public space I would expect to find grassy low impact spaces, to view the waters and put down a blanket or chair.

Docks – If permitted, on public and private lands they should be regulated. There should be rules regarding the wetlands always on public and private lands. These docks would need to be State and Town approved and inspected seasonally by a local authority, insured by the applicants and the owners must know and certify (in some way) that they understand and will follow the State and Local wetland bylaws. Any associated costs should be at the owner's expense. Have you looked at other Town's dock bylaws (for example Westford, Groton, Harvard and so on)?

Public access – There is a State boat ramp, is this enough?

Public Docks – Who would install, maintain and insure a public dock? Will our fragile Long Lake and surrounding wetlands tolerate the additional traffic? I would rather we consider a

passive designated area for watercraft storage and launching. This area will still need to be maintained and regulated. I'd use the passive boat launch or public dock frequently.

Equity – Any actions taken on U12-14-0 need to be inclusive with the public in mind. Can anyone install a dock? Is there a limit for maximum number of approved docks? Why are existing docks allowed and different than a new one? Maybe there should be a lottery or no docks at all.

Whatever you decide to do, all or nothing or something in the middle, please do it for Long Lake. The lake will be here long after we leave this beautiful place. Thank you again for considering my inputs and taking on this long awaited community effort.

Respectfully, Stephen Foss
4 Cedar Road
Littleton MA 01460