

Dear Tim & Lauren,

I am writing as a Long Lake area resident on Dogwood Road to share my perspective regarding the discussion around removing the existing docks along the lake.

Like many neighbors, I deeply appreciate the public access Long Lake provides in all seasons. The current docks have long served as important, low-impact access points for the community—supporting activities such as passive wildlife observation, fishing, kayaking and canoeing, ice skating in the winter, and general enjoyment of the lake without the need for extensive infrastructure.

In particular, the docks offer a convenient and practical launching point for small boats without requiring residents to haul equipment all the way to the main boat ramp. This makes lake access more inclusive and manageable for families, older residents, and those engaging in quieter, non-motorized recreation.

I've also seen firsthand how the existing docks function as shared community assets rather than private amenities. They enable responsible, passive use of the lake while fostering appreciation for the surrounding natural environment—something I believe aligns closely with the Conservation Commission's broader mission.

If maintenance and long-term care are a concern, I would like to express interest in helping. I—and others in the neighborhood—would be open to assisting with maintenance or formally “adopting” an abandoned dock, such as the one at the foot of Dogwood Road, which does not appear to have a clear current owner.

I believe that with additional community involvement and stewardship, it may be possible to preserve some or all of the existing docks as shared public resources while addressing the Commission's environmental and management concerns.

Thank you for considering this perspective, and for the work you do to protect and manage Long Lake.

Sincerely,
Patrick & Anne Spiegel
Dogwood Road