

August 6, 2023

Dear Members of the Selectboard:

I appreciate that you have taken on the issue of the Town Landing. The current situation is clearly unacceptable. Not only is the Landing Road a significant source of phosphorus pollution into the lake, it also does not serve well as a boat launch. Unlike at the two designated boat launches, the road slopes directly down into the lake, inevitably causing sedimentation, even if it were improved. The Landing Road has a narrow right-of-way and traverses a quiet residential neighborhood. There is insufficient parking.

Some residents of South China lamented that if the access were changed to carry-in only, they would be inconvenienced by having to drive to one of the existing launches. I sympathize with their situation. However, a paved ramp would inevitably attract even more boaters, leading to more congestion and more pollution. The days of the quiet little-known neighborhood launch are behind us.

Other residents of the South China Village pointed out that a carry-in access would be compatible with an attractive spot for fishing and swimming. This would offer a special form of lake access in harmony with a peaceful village atmosphere.

Lake access for fire trucks is compatible with a carry-in launch. A dry hydrant could be installed either at the landing or another location, for example, the bridge. If the Landing is chosen as the best location for pumper access, and turn-around space is not available, pumpers could back down the road or use a front-loaded pump to relay to a tanker.

A carry-in option would save money for the town. The initial construction costs would be much lower. In addition, we would save money by not needing an invasive inspection station for motor boats entering into the lake at South China. Paving the ramp without hiring inspection workers would be irresponsible, as the costs of remediation if European milfoil were introduced would be astronomical.

In sum, while sympathetic to those who wish to retain motorized boat access at the south of the lake, I favor the carry-in option because it will reduce pollution, provide lake access compatible with a residential neighborhood, and reduce costs.

With best regards,
Judy Stone