

Hi Mike & David,

The fellas at the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife have been really prompt and kind in answering my questions. Still, I am not a happy person about these regulations and limited uses. And I am shocked to find that the Feds own our Putney Boat Landing. Protecting Vermonter's rights to secondary access is critical for our state, for our tourism and for our citizens who live here.

In the letter from Wichrowski, it state that \$8,000,000 for their dept. comes from Fed. taxes so they have to abide by the Fed. regulations. Vermonters contribute to federal taxes, too.

I like that you have included this in your bill, which, for the most part I think, I get. It is really heartening to know that you are working on this bill. But I have a question about one part of your bill:

(G) Swimming or waterskiing within 150 feet of a fishing access area.

I see folks of all ages swimming and picnicking there throughout the summer. I see elderly swimming to the rocks and hanging out there as they cool off on really hot days. I see teenagers fishing doing something productive, often with younger kids with them. I have seen Peter Schumlin laying on the grass trying to talk with folks about his campaign for governor years ago. I always thought the granite steps down to the water were constructed for all people to use? I thought they were such a lovely access for swimmers AND fishers.

My husband John thinks 150 feet is about half-way across the river. That would mean out past the rocks, and along most of the bank (minus the concrete landing). Can you explain why you are leaving (G) in your legislation? It is going to be a very sore point for secondary user citizens.

The funniest thing (if I were laughing) about this is that many of us have used this access for decades and we all seem to be very compatible in the uses, at least from my perspective.

Do you know how much does Dennis Mewes know what is going on and is he aware of your legislation? He is the next person I would like to write to.

How many of our local people know about this regulation? How many have been chased away?

And how many know about the bill you are submitting? Do you need public support?

Protecting Vermonter's rights to secondary access is critical for our state, for our tourism and for our citizens who live here.

Thank you for taking this so seriously.

Will there be some kind of meeting on this legislation before you submit it? When do you propose to do that?

warmly,

Penelope

p.s. Below are the recent correspondences with Jason Batchelder today.

On Nov 6, 2017, at 4:49 PM, Penelope Simpson <[pensa@sover.net](mailto:pensa@sover.net)> wrote:

Dear Jason,

I really appreciate your responding so quickly, and so kindly, to my queries and concerns. With all the strange things that are going on in today's world, this just hits hard. I am stunned that we have never heard of these regulations. It saddens me greatly and makes living here feel very differently.

I see that Mike W. has also responded and I will read that next. Thanks for passing my concerns and questions on. I really appreciate your help, Jason.

warmly,

Penelope Simpson Adams  
Putney, VT

From: Batchelder, Jason  
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2017 10:49 AM  
To: Penelope Simpson <[pensa@sover.net](mailto:pensa@sover.net)>  
Cc: Wichrowski, Mike <[Mike.Wichrowski@vermont.gov](mailto:Mike.Wichrowski@vermont.gov)>  
Subject: Re: Wardens at Putney Boat Landing?

Good morning Penelope,

It's unfortunate that this situation caused you embarrassment, as that certainly isn't the intent of our enforcement efforts. I can also understand how, if we're running the same circles, you wouldn't encounter a warden who perhaps only checks in to the access once or twice a day at best. I will concede that efforts to educate unauthorized users has stepped up in years past due to the unfortunate drug crisis that we all face, but I can say when I was a warden in the field, the access areas in my district were daily stops for me.

I've copied a Department employee on this email who oversees the access area program and he will be able to fill us both in on the finer details regarding ownership, funding etc. As for the stance of the Department, or more appropriately, the Division which I oversee, we don't venture opinions on any of our laws. We enforce them as best we can with the resources with which we are provided and, at the same time, try to live in the communities in which we enforce them with the people our enforcement efforts affect. Not always easy (especially in this particular situation) when dealing with a place that invites, by its very existence, dozens of users on any given day- many of which are unauthorized. I will add that boating is not among those unauthorized uses and I'm thrilled that you're taking advantage of the access(es) for that purpose. It's worth adding that once your conveyance is launched and you or your guests are away from the access area, we certainly don't regulate picnicking, swimming or much else that's non-fish and game related. If you were to paddle out to a quiet point somewhere, that would be 100% fine with us. Just thought I'd mention that.

All the best, and please be in touch at any time.

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Colonel Jason M. Batchelder, Chief Warden

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