

Brie Weisman, Rumford, ME.

Response to Brookfield's FERC comments regarding recreation opportunities:
July 7, 2023

After hearing that Brookfield believed the proposal of a trail connecting the Eugene Boivin Park to the West Viewing area was impractical, I asked Gabe Perkins, of Inland Woods and Waters, to examine the possibility. As someone who came to Maine to work on trails at Baxter State Park, I felt that it was important to get someone who is currently building trails to look at the section of trail in question. He agreed that the section of the trail that collapsed would be challenging to improve, and would become more of a hikers' trail rather than a serviceable walking path for tourists.

Understanding that the West Viewing area will be given a face lift, I would like an addition to the West Viewing area site to be considered. As you look at the West Viewing area from Rte 2, the broad expanse of grass that leads to an overlook of Reflection pool would be an ideal location for a Pergola. With a little bit of tree thinning, it would provide a distinct view of the beautiful pool and, if visible from Boivin Park, add to the scenic quality and provide photographic opportunities across Reflection Pool.

Rumford had a beautiful Pergola near Chisholm park in the early 1900s. Providing a new, attractive pergola in the classic style for residents and visitors to enjoy would not only provide additional recreational opportunities, but it may also help get tourists to spend a little more time enjoying the falls and then, perhaps, extending their time with a visit to shops and restaurants in Rumford. A pergola would also provide some protection from the elements, which is currently lacking in the West Viewing area. Please consider this small but potentially impactful addition to your efforts toward the betterment of Rumford.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Brie Weisman
Rumford resident.

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