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RE: Spinney Golden Ridge Sportsman Club – DEP Approved License

Planning Board
1574 Alna Rd
Alna, ME 04535

Dear Planning Board:

I want to offer a few thoughts regarding this Sheepscot River shore focused development referenced above. MY hope is that this development does not compromise the values all of us consider as community assets that make Alna a good place to live but that also support a river system that is rightfully a National treasure.

It's easy to take for granted the beauty and undeveloped character of the Sheepscot River. When this character is put in a position of compromise, it's the job of the Planning Board to not only consider a plan in its present day but to consider the long-term impacts and precedent setting that it will surely influence from this day forward. We have a river that is largely undeveloped. That, in my mind, makes it a real treasure. We are fortunate in the sense that history and serendipity have gifted us something of great value. I believe all of us can agree with this. The question is, "What do we do with this gift?" We are custodians for Alna, yes, but also for everyone who comes after us. This stretch of river has long been a focus of the former Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association and of the Midcoast Conservancy and it falls within the forever wild corridor initiative. It has been recognized as a largely natural riverine portion of the Sheepscot River in the Riparian Inventory conducted by the Governor's Office several years ago.

Please consider not allowing any uses that compromise these values. Permanent structures, significant changes to existing uses, allowing motorboat access, etc. all irreversibly change the current use and set the stage for future similar uses. The erosion of this treasure, once begun, will continue. Your decision is truly irreversible. This resource is far more valuable as a natural asset for all of us, than it is for individual, short-lived intentions and plans being proposed today. Please don't allow a benefit for a few to impact a resources that provides for so many.

A path...a small wooden structure that once abandoned will rot away...a design that is in keeping with what is there today. Given what we both have as a public trust in this river and what we know of the natural values it provides all of us with, I hope and trust that you who have been delegated the powers that could alter this Alna, regional and National treasure in a way that compromises it forever, will consider this approach.

Sincerely,



Mark P. DesMeules