

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2020 2:06 PM
To: Leah Sprague
Subject: RE: Application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

Dear Ms. Sprague,

Thank you for your comments regarding the construction of a boat ramp and pier system in Alna as proposed by Jeffrey Spinney. The Department is currently reviewing the application under Maine's Natural Resources Protection Act. The Department accepted the application for processing on September 9, 2019. The Department's goal deadline to reach a final decision on the application is January 24, 2020; however, the Department may issue a decision prior to that date. Written comments will be accepted until a decision is issued.

Your comments will be added to the file and will be considered during the review of the project. The Department's record, which includes the application of specific interest to you, is available to be viewed at any time. Feel free to contact the Department's File Room at (207) 287-7843 to request a day and time that is convenient for you to view the record.

You may contact me with additional concerns, questions, or comments. I can be reached at (207) 446-4894 or via email at jami.macneil@maine.gov.

Sincerely,

-Jami MacNeil

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Maine Department of Environmental Protection
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From: Leah Sprague <lwsprague@aol.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 05, 2020 7:17 PM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>
Subject: Application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

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Dear Ms. MacNeil.

I am writing concerning the application by Jeffrey Spinney for a permit to construct a permanent dock on the Sheepscot River, as well as a boat access ramp from his property on the Golden Ridge Road in Alna, Maine. I reside on South Dyer Neck Road in Newcastle. My property includes over 1000 feet of frontage on the Sheepscot River, one mile north of the Sheepscot Village bridge and down river from Mr. Spinney's proposed project. I have owned this property since 1996, and have lived here full-time since 2002. I am very concerned about developments along this pristine river that would change

its current nature. Boaters who travel from the bridge in Sheepscot Village north to Head Tide enjoy virtually a wilderness experience, with very little evidence of human development along both shores of the river. (Much of the frontage in the Town of Newcastle, for example, is protected by the Town's shoreline zoning ordinance as a resource protection district.) It is a major reason why I and many of my neighbors have chosen to live in this special place. It is also why so many choose to explore the river here by canoe or kayak. The river in this area is narrow and shallow and with a pretty decent current because of the influence of the tides. I have in the past owned a Boston Whaler and would never take it north of my property because of the risk of hitting rocks and debris that are not far below the surface of the river. In the past twenty years, I have very rarely heard the sounds of motor boats traveling up river from my property, and on those rare occasions when I have, I have wondered whether these boaters are aware of the dangers beyond here.

Sheepscot Village, Dyer's Neck, the Golden Ridge and the Sheepscot River as it winds its way north to Head Tide are natural wonders that deserve to remain that way. I am aware that there is a need for access to the river, but the site that Mr. Spinney proposes is not the appropriate location for such access, and the prospect of a boat ramp to entice motor boats or other forms of motorized water craft to enter the river at this point is very unsettling. I hope that the Department of Environmental Protection will deny Mr. Spinney's application. I encourage you and others who are part of the decision-making process, when weather permits, to travel the river in this area and experience the solitude and beauty that we who are privileged to live here, and those who undertake the experience of the river, enjoy. I believe you will then agree that this change will be destructive of a very special place in an otherwise increasingly developed landscape.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leah W. Sprague
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