

MacNeil, Jami

From: MacNeil, Jami
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 1:38 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

Ms. Sprague,

Thank you for the additional comments. These will be entered into the Department's record and considered as we complete our review.

Best,

-Jami MacNeil

Environmental Specialist III
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

From: Leah Sprague <lwsprague@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 02, 2020 12:01 PM
To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>
Cc: Gerald.Reid@maine.gov; Governor <Governor@maine.gov>
Subject: Re: Application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: DRAFT NRPA Permit #L-28397-4E-A-N, application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

Dear Ms. McNeil,

Thank you for forwarding me your draft permit, below, and allowing me additional time to respond. As I have stated before, I am a property owner in Sheepscot Village in Newcastle. My property on South Dyer Neck Road includes over 1000 feet of frontage on the Sheepscot River (all of which frontage is covered in the Town of Newcastle's Resource Protection District). I will not repeat here the comments and suggestions made by my neighbors in Newcastle and Alna to this draft permit, but do want to join them in voicing my serious concerns.

The Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has designated the lower Sheepscot River, from the reversing falls in Sheepscot Village to Head Tide as a "focus area of statewide ecological significance." See www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/focusarea/lower_sheepscot_river_focus_area_pdf. This designation would seem to contradict certain findings in the draft permit regarding harm of the proposed project to significant wildlife habitat.

In addition, the Sheepscot Valley Conservation Association (now incorporated as part of the Midcoast Conservancy), of which I was a member and board member, considered the preservation the natural state of the Sheepscot in this area a major objective. As the result of decades-long efforts, a number of properties along the river here are under some form of protection, whether by conservation easement or, in the case of the Town of Newcastle, by the designation of most of its shoreline as a resource protection district.

By now, you already know that the majority of property owners along the river in this area oppose Mr. Spinney's application. I join them in hoping you will reconsider this unfortunate decision to grant his permit.

Leah W. Sprague
Attorney at Law
214 South Dyer Neck Road
Newcastle, ME 04553
lwsprague@aol.com

-----Original Message-----

From: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>

To: Leah Sprague <lwsprague@aol.com>

Sent: Mon, Feb 24, 2020 8:32 am

Subject: RE: Application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

Ms. Sprague,

I apologize for the oversight. The draft is attached and below is the language that was sent with the draft. Since you are receiving this late, the deadline for you to submit comments on the draft is close of business on **March 2, 2020**.

Please find attached to this email a draft order for **NRPA permit #L-28397-4E-A-N**, located in **Alna** for **Jeffry Spinney**. This draft was initially distributed on February 10, 2020, to all interested persons who had submitted a written request for a draft. To ensure that all interested persons have an opportunity to comment, the Department is now distributing this draft to all individuals who have submitted written comments on the application during the review process, including those who did not specifically request a copy of the draft. You may send comments on the draft to the project manager, Jami MacNeil, at jami.macneil@maine.gov. Comments are due by close of business on **February 28, 2020**.

Please note that this draft is the same version that was initially issued on February 10, 2020. If you have already submitted comments on the draft, you do not need to resend them. They will be considered during the Department's final review.

This electronic version of this **draft order** is an Adobe Acrobat .pdf file. If you don't have the Adobe Acrobat Reader on your computer, you can click on this link to download the free reader.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>

Thank you,

-Jami MacNeil

Environmental Specialist III

Bureau of Land Resources

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

From: Leah Sprague <lwsprague@aol.com>

Sent: Saturday, February 22, 2020 6:36 PM

To: MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov>

Subject: Re: Application of Jeffrey Spinney of Golden Ridge Road in Alna to construct permanent dock and boat access ramp on the Sheepscot River

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Ms. MacNeil,

My neighbors received a draft decision from you, but I was not included on that email. Please send.

Thank you,
Leah Sprague
214 South Dyer Neck Road
Newcastle

Sent from my I phone

On Jan 6, 2020, at 2:06 PM, MacNeil, Jami <Jami.MacNeil@maine.gov> wrote:

Dear Ms. Sprague,

Thank you for your comments regarding the construction of a boat ramp and pier system in Alna as proposed by Jeffry 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

Environmental Specialist III
Bureau of Land Resources
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
(207) 446-4894 | jami.macneil@maine.gov

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

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the State of Maine Mail System. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

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
214 South Dyer Neck Road
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