

Mark Richter

From: beardyw@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, September 5, 2023 7:48 AM
To: Mark Richter
Subject: Proposal for Kayaks at trolley bridge
Attachments: STONY CREEK KAYAK PLAN 2009.doc

Hi Mark!

I noticed that the August 1st minutes discussed the possibility of a kayak launch at the West Point field and trolley bridge. This proposal has been offered a number of times over the past 20 years. Here is a copy (attached) of the letter that I sent in 2009 regarding this. Please provide a copy to the members of the board before your meeting today.

You really need to kill this terrible idea!! Although this may help solve a problem in town, it will create a much worse problem!!

By the way, if you ever walked in that mud at low tide, you would know how dangerous it is. You can easily get stuck!

If you would like to discuss this, please feel free to call me or Penny.

Thank you

STEVE WEINSTEIN

PLEASE EMAIL ME BACK TO CONFIRM RECEIPT OF THIS EMAIL

June 8, 2009

Department of Environmental Protection
Office of Long Island Sound Programs
79 Elm Street, Third Floor
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

IN RE: Application #200800569-KZ Town of Branford

Dear Director:

There are individuals in the Stony Creek section of Branford who are seeking to get all the people who Kayak and Canoe (an increasing large number) away from the center of the village's boat ramp. To alleviate this "problem" in the center of the village, the town of Branford has decided to move these kayakers to the West Point Road area. This, however, will create far more serious problems in a different part of town. As described below, this plan MUST not be approved. On paper, the plan is a beautifully designed project. It is, however, in reality, an **environmental and practical disaster**.

As a Branford resident living in this area, a member of the Land Trust's Advisory Board and an avid kayaker, I know this area extremely well, both on land and on sea. Based on my extensive knowledge, **this plan must NOT be implemented** because:

Cars and people will overrun the marsh areas and destroy the vegetation and ecology of that area. It is unrealistic to expect that people will carry kayaks the 200 yards to the bridge area. They will instead cut through the fragile marsh near the parking area, and through private property, to shorten their access to the water.

The proposed launch area provides limited access to LI Sound during the low tide periods. Even though there may be some water in Pine Creek, the water table in that part of LI Sound may only be a few inches. People will get out of their boats and slog through the mud disrupting all forms of vegetation and marine life. There may be some serious consequences to people who get in the water at one tide level and try to return at one to two hours around low tide. People slogging through the mud will cause all sorts of damage and may actually get stuck in the mud. This might be particularly dangerous in an approaching thunderstorm.

In addition, people (joggers, walkers, bikers, etc.) will be at some risk of injury, as they vie for space on the narrow trail. In addition, since the trail is used by people walking their dogs (many of whom are loose), the risk of injury is greatly enhanced.

Garbage and other pollution of the area will increase and will be very difficult to control.

Many other potential negative impacts are likely, including safety and security issues. That trail has been closed to cars for about 10 years, not only because of the risk of cars driving, backing up (in a narrow area with people/dogs), but also for security reasons (e.g., prior to this area being closed to cars, it was a place for drug activity and underage drinking since it is not easily accessible by the Branford police). Also, if people can be allowed to drive all the way down to the bridge, they may try to turn around in the very narrow area which would require driving onto fragile marsh areas.

Finally, the volume of users may increase (as out-of-state kayakers find parking and water access at the ball field). These additional people will expand the risk of trampling the vegetation and destroying the ecology of this beautiful marsh area. Furthermore, the parking at the field, by local families with small children who use that field, will be more difficult (and dangerous).

In summary, although the DEP's design and concept on paper may seem functional, it is environmentally unsound and as a practical matter will not be utilized as anticipated by the plan. I **implore you to please eliminate this disastrous project from your plans**.

Sincerely,

Stephen Weinstein, 24 West Point Road, Branford, CT 06405

203-483-6664