

### Letters with Questions or Concerns

For the purposes of consolidating digitized materials, the following is a summary list of endorsements followed by the actual documents received.

Item #	Name	Date
1-a	Neil and Carlota Schechter	January 13, 2024

Date Created: 1/13/2024

To: The Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission

From: Neil and Carlota Schechter, 7 West Shore Place Salisbury, CT

Re: Proposal to Relocate a Portion of Between the Lakes Road

We are Neil and Carlota Schechter. We have been part-time residents of Salisbury for over 40 years and have lived at our present address, 7 West Shore Place, for over 25 years. We are writing regarding the proposal to relocate a portion of Between the Lakes Road. At this time, we can offer no expert opinion regarding the impact on the lake or on the road itself of the requested alteration of the path of Between the Lakes Road. We feel strongly, however, that an **independent**, expert opinion should be sought given the dramatic changes in the landscape which occurred last summer.

The objective of this letter is to clarify the historical record regarding the impact of the work done on the property last summer. We were shocked to hear at the last meeting that the complete denuding of the berm on the east and west side of the Between the Lakes Road that occurred relentlessly last summer on the property in question was done without permission of the Commission. We even heard someone suggest incorrectly at the meeting that the work was done by a previous owner. In fact, it took place last summer under what we assume were the auspices of the present owner. We walk our dog by this property every day and countless other walkers who pass this property on a regular basis will attest to the fact that the landscape was dramatically altered last summer.

Before this project began, the 4 acres were wild pasture and, more significantly for purposes of the Commission, there were numerous trees and heavy vegetation on either side of the road, similar to that which exists presently along the eastern side (lake-side) of the road south of the property. Over the summer the acreage was turned into a lawn. This may well be within the prerogative of the land owner. However, the removal of **MANY** trees and heavy vegetation along either side of the road has widened the road, created a drainage problem, and may put the road itself at risk of washing out. The trees and

vegetation acted as a buffer for water drainage into the lake and helped to keep the shore of the lake in place alongside the road. [Attached is a photo looking north along Between the Lakes Road from August of 2017 and another from the same spot taken recently. There were once a number of trees in the area behind the docks in the current photo. This represents only a small portion of the area which was cleared of trees.] Given that we know how aggressive the Commission has been regarding more minor infractions in the past, we were surprised that it was unaware of this activity.

We recognize that it has been suggested that moving the road may be a remedy to address the occasional washouts and sand run off into the lake that have occurred in the past. We did not perceive this to be a significant problem. It is true that the road occasionally became rutted and required additional fill but the majority of the rutting occurred on the east side of the road. The present drainage ditch on the west side of the road does not address this. Moving the road may now possibly improve the situation especially of the southern-most section where the road is closest to the lake. This area did not appear to be a problem in the past but is now vulnerable due to the unpermitted removal of the protective berm. This situation reminds us of the oft told anecdote of the individual who murders his parents and begs the court for mercy now that he is an orphan.

Again, we are writing to correct the historical record. We offer no expertise in this arena. We would strongly recommend an entirely independent professional review of the proposal to determine whether moving the road or other solutions might address the present concerns which we feel have increased due to elimination of the vegetation on the property.

Additionally, we expect any decision to move the road would need to be approved by our neighbors who own lake front parcels in this area. They would have to be comfortable with requiring a right of way to access their beachfronts.



