

To the Conservation Commission  
37 Shattuck St.  
Littleton MA 01460

October 21, 2024

Dear Board Members,

I am unable to attend the meeting on of October 22<sup>nd</sup>, but wanted to express my opinion on the BIPAC's proposal to construct a boardwalk at the end of Aspen Rd.

There are a number of species of birds, reptiles and amphibians who rely on the pond to survive. Many of them reside in the area that's being considered for a boardwalk. Devastating their habitat by constructing a path that encourages pedestrian and canine traffic is just plain wrong. There are some places that should just be left alone and inaccessible to humans for the benefit of nature.

There is already a trail into Prouty's that is only a few hundred feet up Aspen Rd from the area that's being considered. It works for people now. Perhaps the thing to do is to improve the access through that path and leave the lake alone. There is also another trail on the crest of the hill at Birch Road.

Long Lake is a popular place. Boaters, anglers, walkers (many with dogs), and cyclists use the water, roads and trails daily. *Most* people are respectful of the lake and the neighborhood. Sadly there are those who abuse the area by littering, not picking up dog waste, driving too fast and being generally inconsiderate of the environment. It is public land and people have a right to use it- I get that. Isn't it is our duty to educate people about the impact of their actions and encourage appropriate conduct?

Frankly, it makes more sense to me to utilize the money that it would cost to do this project on remediating the problems that we (humans) have caused that have contaminated the lake. The wetlands park/retention pond between Lake and Beach Drives is in dire need of maintenance that is many years overdue. The pond would benefit from more frequent weed removal. The roads could possibly be upgraded to help manage the storm water run-off that deposits sediment and debris directly into the pond via the catch basins. The list continues.

The Town-owned area in the buffer zone needs to be better maintained for invasives and policed to discourage people from dumping yard waste, littering and not picking up dog waste. Do we want to encourage this behavior directly on the water by adding a boardwalk?

I reiterate that nature *needs* undisturbed places in order to thrive.

Thank you for your consideration to my comments

Sincerely,  
Sarah Foss  
4 Cedar Rd

