

**Center Harbor Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER:** At 6:00 p.m. Chairman Harry Viens called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order. Selectmen William Ricciardi and Richard Drenkhahn were present. Police Chief Mark Chase, Interim Fire Chief Tyler Driscoll, Code Enforcement Officer Bill Doucette, Road Agent Jeff Haines, Parks & Recreation Director Sandy Frost, approximately fifteen citizens and Selectmen's Administrative Assistant Robin Woodaman were also in attendance.

**PUBLIC HEARING PER RSA 31:95-b TO ACCEPT UNANTICIPATED FUNDS:** At 6:00 Mr. Viens called the public hearing, per RSA 31:95-b, to accept \$15,000 in unanticipated funds from the Meredith Rotary Club for repairs to the Town's Bandstand. With no immediate public input, Mr. Viens reported the Selectmen would hold this public hearing open during their meeting.

**PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE INPUT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARKING AT THE HIGH HAITH BOAT LAUNCH:** At 6:02 p.m. Mr. Viens opened the public hearing to receive input on proposed changes to parking at the High Haith Boat Launch. He reported this public hearing is for the Selectmen to receive input; there will be no deliberation or decision this evening.

- **Mark Hildebrand:**

- Mr. Hildebrand has been using the boat launch since 1978; there were more people using the launch last year than in previous years, and even more this year. Approximately twenty-five years ago, the Squam Lake chart was changed with the addition of a red dot to indicate the High Haith launch; this change has brought additional people to the area.
- He referred to an area on the road with "No Parking Between Signs"; he had not noticed that, parked there and received a ticket. He asked why no parking is allowed in the spot?
- The popularity of kayaking has increased the use of the launch.
- The launch is for use by Center Harbor residents only; there should be a way to enforce this.
- The area owned by the Town is barely large enough to launch a boat and referred to the owners of the rest of the property, who may in the future, not want people using their property and could install a fence.

- **Tim Nefores:**

- Mr. Nefores reported he doesn't know what is driving the discussion; he purchased his house because of its location.
- The spirit of the launch is well preserved as it is. It can accommodate 4 – 5 trailers, on busy days, trailers should be brought home.
- Everyone should have access, he does not want to see anymore excluded. There's no need for further restrictions.
- There is plenty of room for emergency vehicles.
- Everyone is kind and respectful; he has never seen any litter or arguments.

- **Karen Ponton:**

- The Town purchased the 1/10 of an acre property in 1911 with the purpose of a public landing; for 110 years people have enjoyed the use of the launch.
- Boat trailers need to launch; to further restrict boat trailer parking is unreasonable.

- The area should be kept as it is.
- **Mark Ponton:**
  - He enjoys seeing people enjoy the lake and is against any restrictions on parking.
  - During thirty years, he has never seen any safety or traffic issues.
  - He also questioned the “No Parking Between Signs” sign; doesn’t know why it’s there.
- **Chuck Buhrman:**
  - He is not sure what the proposed proposals are, but he has never seen any issues there.
  - He is not a fan of seeing more restrictions; it would not be fair.
  - Parking on one side of the road is safe.
- **Peggy Smith:**
  - Ms. Smith brings her dog to the area after work; she is always respectful of the people there and has never seen a problem.
  - There is a picnic table, which you would expect people to use to enjoy the lake.
  - She would hate to see more restrictions.
- **Police Chief Mark Chase:**
  - Chief Chase reported requesting the public hearing because the posted parking signs do not match Town ordinances.
  - The “No Parking Between Signs” signs were posted at the request of the property owner, who did not want vehicles parking on his property. People do not have the right to park on private property.
  - The Town has a right-of-way, but is it for public use or governmental access for maintenance and repairs? The Town cannot give permission to park on private property.
- **George Gurney:**
  - The sign refers to use by Center Harbor residents; if a resident has a Transfer Station decal which allows parking at the Town Beach, the decal should be used for parking at the High Haith Boat Launch.
  - He suggested the installation of a sign referring all non-residents to the public boat launch on Route 113 in Holderness.
  - There is a concern that no one is monitoring for milfoil, snails, etc. especially boats from out of the area.
- **George Frost:**
  - He is listening to all sides. Mr. Ricciardi reported part of the reason to hold hearings is so that the Selectmen can get information and the audience also listens to everyone else so all the issues can be looked at.
- **Leo Zelman:**
  - The only time there is an issue with the boat launch is on the weekends when it’s over 90 degrees; other times it is wonderful.
  - Most of the people using the area are not Center Harbor residents; they are from Moultonborough and have been using the launch for years.
  - It has been much better this year with Parks & Recreation Director Sandy Frost issuing warnings. He suggested next year there should be a \$75 fine if a vehicle does not have a Center Harbor sticker.
- **Adam Ramsey:**
  - He has no issues with the boat launch and supports its use by locals.
- **Barry Borella:**

- He reported kayaks or canoes can be launched from the Holderness launch, but only vehicles with trailers can park in the parking lot. If trailers are prohibited from parking on High Haith Road, they can go to Holderness to launch and park. A place is needed to park trucks and trailers.
- He recommended the Selectmen contact the Town's attorney for advice on the Town's right-of-way or prescriptive right-of-way on High Haith Road.
- The launch is a happy, little place.
- **Craig Showers**
  - His one question was in regards to the "No Parking Between Signs" signs and Chief Chase clarified that issue.
- **Tom Croasdale:**
  - It is an historic launch, it hasn't changed – he doesn't see a big issue.
  - Construction vehicles park trailers and equipment there because they cannot get into "The Jungle"; this should not be allowed.
  - He suggested reaching an agreement with the land owners for parking along the road.
  - There is no trash and no erosion. He doesn't want the Town to improve it, that would encourage more to use the area.
  - Squam Lake has always been about limited access, the nature of the launch should be preserved by using common sense.
  - He suggested the fee for the first parking violation should be \$75 and an increase to \$300 for the second violation.
- **Jan Showers:**
  - With the parking issue, the Town should figure out how to get additional parking; perhaps offer property owners a tax decrease if vehicles are allowed to park on their property.
- **Emails:**
  - Please see the attached emails for additional input.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:** At 6:48 p.m. Mr. Viens closed the public hearing regarding parking at the High Haith Boat Launch.

**RECONVENE:** At 6:48 p.m. Mr. Viens reconvened the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

**AGENDA REVIEW:**

- **Interim Fire Chief Tyler Driscoll:** Mr. Viens reported Interim Chief Driscoll had requested discussing some Fire Department matters this evening and requested this be scheduled for the Selectmen's October 6<sup>th</sup> meeting. Interim Chief Driscoll requested the Selectmen discuss one item this evening:
  - **Donation of a cardiac monitor:** Interim Chief Driscoll reported a Center Harbor resident would like to donate a cardiac monitor to the Fire Department. The Selectmen expressed their appreciation for this generous donation. Mr. Viens motioned to authorize Interim Chief Driscoll to proceed with the donation of a cardiac monitor. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Due to the value of the cardiac monitor of approximately \$42,000, a public hearing, per RSA 31:95-b, will be held to accept the unanticipated donation.

## **MEETING MINUTES:**

- **September 8, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting:** Mr. Ricciardi motioned to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2021 Board of Selectmen's meeting as presented electronically. Mr. Viens seconded the motion. Mr. Drenkhahn, who was absent from the meeting, abstained from voting. The motion passed.

## **APPOINTMENTS:** None

## **SELECTMEN'S REPORTS:**

### **MR. RICCIARDI:**

- **Lakeview Cemetery repairs:** Mr. Viens reported Mae Williams has been contracted to do the research and submit the application to the NH Register of Historic Places. Mr. Ricciardi reported the Town can spend money to repair the cemetery or wait until we can apply for grants. He reported the estimate for two gates is between \$900 to \$1,600 with the installation cost of \$1,000. Mr. Ricciardi reported to reset the granite pillars and install new rails will cost \$200 per foot. He mentioned the possibility of using reclaimed, cast-iron fencing. Mr. Haines reported the Highway Department will work to get the picket fence to stand up. Mr. Viens requested the cost to repair the headstones and requested all costs be gathered so that he can discuss this with the individual who offered to donate for the cemetery repairs.

### **MR. VIENS:**

- **CDC mask guidance:** Mr. Viens reported the Moderator has the authority for mask policies in the polling stations and the governing body has the authority for municipal buildings.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**TOWN BOAT RAMP REPAIRS:** Road Agent Jeff Haines reported he, Parks & Recreation Director Sandy Frost and Quantum Construction Consultants (QCC) Senior Project Manager Jim Bouchard met to review the existing site conditions and range of the scope of work necessary to reconstruct the boat ramp. QCC submitted a proposal to reconstruct the boat ramp and address the last bit of drainage that the Town deposits into the bay. Mr. Haines reported the drain is the outlet for the drainage that begins on Chase Circle. QCC's scope of the work to develop a Boat Ramp Reconstruction Program will consist of observations, topographic and physical feature survey for the Town parcel, development of construction drawings that will identify the scope and limits of work for reconstruction of the boat ramp and approach; development of bidding and contract documents and development of the project cost information. QCC submitted a fee estimate for the above mentioned scope of services in the amount of \$54,620. Mr. Haines reported the required permits will cost over \$10,000 (this amount is included in QCC's proposal). Mr. Bouchard reported, based on research of recent reconstruction of various boat ramps around the state, the reconstruction project will probably cost between \$180,000 to \$225,000; the total cost will be between \$235,000 and \$280,000. Mr. Viens reported this project would need to be a warrant article, requiring a bond or note, to be voted on at Town Meeting; he explained all the Parks & Recreation revenue for 10 – 15 years would be committed to this project. Mr. Drenkhahn asked what the launch fee revenue is annually; Ms. Frost reported 2020 was a very busy year and approximately \$17,000 was collected in boat launch fees – as of the third week in August this year, approximately \$12,000 has been collected. She reported there is approximately \$134,000 in the

Parks & Recreation Revolving Fund account. Mr. Haines reported QCC could begin the project immediately. Ms. Frost reported Mr. Bouchard would contact surveyor Carl Johnson to do the survey of the property. Mr. Viens expressed his concern that it will cost \$55,000 to determine the cost of the project. Mr. Ricciardi reported he feels this project should go out to bid; Mr. Viens and Mr. Drenkhahn agreed. Mr. Drenkhahn asked how long the new ramp would last; Mr. Haines reported there are new designs for ramps and this new ramp should have a thirty-year life. Mr. Viens asked how long the construction would take; Mr. Haines reported two to three weeks. Mr. Viens reported there are three steps to take now; get a price for the survey and proceed with the survey, issue an Request for Proposals for the project and research funding options.

**TOWN GAS PUMPS:** Mr. Haines reported having a list of six vendors who could replace the Town's gas pumps; two have said they would call him back, but have not as of yet.

**VILLAGE SCHOOLHOUSE REPAIRS:** Center Harbor Historical Society President Roland Garland asked, via email, the status of repairs to the Village Schoolhouse. The Selectmen previously received one bid for the repairs to the building and chimney; Mr. Drenkhahn expressed his concern for only receiving one bid and suggested issuing the Request for Proposals again – Mr. Viens and Mr. Ricciardi agreed. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Doucette reported the previous Request for Proposals did not include repairs to the bathroom floor – this should be added to the scope of work.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**HEATING FUEL FOR THE 2021 – 2022 SEASON:** No proposals were submitted. The Selectmen requested individual heating fuel companies be contacted regarding their prices.

**PFAS CONTAMINATION:** The Selectmen received correspondence from Amy Doherty, State Sites Section Supervisor for the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) reporting on a planned investigation into the source and extent of PFAS contamination in the Plymouth Street area. Based on concerns for this area, NH DES has identified resources through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) pre-remedial investigation program that can be used to investigate. EPA will take the lead on this matter and conduct preliminary investigations to see if the source can be identified; some of the locations they may wish to target for temporary well installation and groundwater sampling may be owned by the Town. Mr. Viens reported the PFAS levels noted in the area meets all federal standards; recently the New Hampshire Legislature dramatically reduced the allowable amounts. Mr. Viens motioned to sign the EPA's "Consent for Access to Property" located at 36 Main Street, Center Harbor; this shall permit EPA's officers, employees, agents, contractors, subcontractors, consultants and other authorized representatives to enter and have access to this property for the purpose of conducting a Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) site evaluation. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY DESIGNATION:** The Selectmen previously received a request from a Purple Heart Community Project Advocate requesting Center Harbor be proclaimed a Purple Heart Community, recognizing August 7<sup>th</sup> as Purple Heart Day and install Purple Heart trail signs. Mr. Drenkhahn asked if the request was from a Center Harbor citizen; Mr. Viens reported it was not, it came from Marie Grella. Mr. Drenkhahn reported he supports veterans, but does not feel the Selectmen should approve this request; Mr. Viens and Mr. Ricciardi agreed.

**CENTER HARBOR INN REQUEST TO CROSS TOWN PROPERTY:** The Center Harbor Inn reported plans to paint the building and requested permission for equipment to cross over Town property. Mr. Viens motioned to approve Center Harbor Inn's request to cross over Town property with the requirement that the Town receive a certificate of insurance and the Inn fill in any ruts that equipment leaves in the Town property. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**GRANITE UNITED WAY "LITTLE FREE LIBRARY" REQUEST:** The Selectmen received a request from Granite United Way to place a "Little Free Library" box in Center Harbor; near the bandstand was a suggested location. Mr. Viens suggested forwarding this to the Library Trustees; Mr. Ricciardi and Mr. Drenkhahn agreed.

**WITHDRAWALS FROM CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS (CRF) AND EXPENDABLE TRUST FUNDS (ETF):** Mr. Viens motioned to sign the following requests to the Trustees of the Trust Funds for withdrawals from CRF's and ETF's to be deposited in the Town's general fund:

Fire Engine or Rescue Vehicle CRF	\$590,219.00
Revaluation of Property CRF	\$ 3,600.00
Computer Equipment CRF	\$ 1,635.88
Vehicle Repairs ETF	\$ 1,633.40

Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

#### **ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

##### **CODE COMPLIANCE OFFICER BILL DOUCETTE:**

- **Nature's Elite Landscaping:** Mr. Doucette reported possible site plan violations on this property; there is a mobile billboard, but the property owner has never applied for a sign. They are also advertising firewood for sale; per the site plan approval, no sales are allowed from the property. Mr. Doucette will speak with the property owner.

##### **INTERIM FIRE CHIEF TYLER DRISCOLL:**

- **Fire Station plumbing:** Interim Chief Driscoll reported the gear extraction unit was not installed correctly; Mr. Driscoll reported a trap was never installed. The Selectmen asked that the trap be installed with funding from the building maintenance line item.

**ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT (ZBA):** The Selectmen were notified of the following ZBA Rehearing of Application 2021-0510:

Ambrose Brothers, Inc.	TML 227-11, 220-24, 220-25	Denied
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#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

**HUMBLE GRUNT WORK:** The Selectmen received correspondence from Carly Taylor, the Founder of Humble Grunt Work, reporting they would like to collaborate with Flags for Forgotten Soldiers, a veteran's suicide awareness group which provides flag displays to represent each of the 22 veterans who die each day from suicide. Ms. Taylor proposed placing 660 flags for the month of October; this number represents the number of lives lost for the month. She reported the flags would be installed on October 3<sup>rd</sup> and removed on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to

approve Ms. Taylor's request to place flags for the month of October. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**TOWN OF MEREDITH PLANNING BOARD (PB):** The Selectmen received notification that the Town of Meredith's PB received a site plan application from Goodhue Meredith, Meredith Real Property, LLC, located at 31 Lovejoy Sands Road. The Meredith PB agreed at their September 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to notify the Town of Center Harbor due to the potential regional impact. Mr. Viens asked Conservation Commissioner Maureen Criasia to review the application for any conservation concerns.

**PUBLIC INPUT:**

**KAREN PONTON:**

- **Memorial for David Reilly:** Ms. Ponton reported anonymous donors contributed a granite bench at the Town House in memory of David Reilly; the bench will be engraved. She reported there is an effort to solicit donations so that a tree can be purchased and placed by the bench. Maureen Criasia reported individuals who had expressed a desire to donate in Mr. Reilly's memory will be asked to donate to the Heritage Fund; the Heritage Fund will pay for the tree and installation. Mr. Viens reported the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Group also has plans for a memorial.

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE:**

- **State of New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NH DOT)**
  - **NH DOT roadway/drainage maintenance work:** NH DOT notified the Town that roadway/drainage maintenance has been scheduled for an area on Winona Road.
  - **NH DOT 2023-2032 transportation projects public hearings:** The Selectmen received notification of NH DOT's 2023-2032 transportation projects public hearings.
- **State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES):** Mr. Viens motioned to sign letters to the following property owners explaining that a Town-issued construction permit may be required for them to do the work pertaining to the NH DES applications submitted:

Broder	TML 216-29	NH DES Permit by Notification
Walsh	TML 105-4	NH DES Shoreland Permit Application

Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**PUBLIC HEARING PER RSA 31:95-b TO ACCEPT UNANTICIPATED FUNDS:** At 7:39 p.m. Mr. Viens closed the public hearing to accept \$15,000 in unanticipated funds from the Meredith Rotary Club for repairs to the Town's Bandstand. Mr. Viens motioned to accept the Meredith Rotary club's donation of \$15,000 for repairs to the Town's Bandstand. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**PAYROLL AND CURRENT BILLS PAYABLE:** Mr. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to approve the payroll and accounts payable manifests as presented. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**CONSTRUCTION PERMIT APPLICATIONS:** The Selectmen reviewed the following approved construction permit applications:

Brown	TML 208-11
Sweeney	TML 230-8
Fenton	TML 218-11.03
Hurst	TML 103-40
Ramsey	TML 205-19
Nefores	TML 220-44
Hyslip	TML 103-19
Hale	TML 102-13
Gertz	TML 101-13
Black	TML 208-10

**NON-PUBLIC SESSION:** At 8:01 p.m. Mr. Viens motioned to go into a non-public session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for an employee review. Mr. Drenkhahn seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Ricciardi – aye, Mr. Drenkhahn – aye. Mr. Viens, Mr. Ricciardi, Mr. Drenkhahn and Interim Chief Driscoll were present for an employee review. At 8:27 p.m. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to end the non-public session. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous. Roll call: Mr. Viens – aye, Mr. Ricciardi – aye, Mr. Drenkhahn – aye.

**RECONVENE:** At 8:28 p.m. Mr. Viens reconvened the Board of Selectmen’s meeting.

**FIRE CHIEF:** Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to appoint Tyler Driscoll as Fire Chief. Mr. Viens seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

**ADJOURNMENT:** At 8:30 p.m. Mr. Drenkhahn motioned to adjourn the Board of Selectmen’s meeting. Mr. Ricciardi seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Woodaman  
Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant



## Selectmen

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**From:** Tony Scotto <[tony.scotto@centerharbor.com](mailto:tony.scotto@centerharbor.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 7, 2021 9:06 PM  
**To:** Selectmen  
**Subject:** Re: High Haith Boat Launch public hearing

You don't often get email from [tony.scotto@centerharbor.com](mailto:tony.scotto@centerharbor.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Because I cannot attend the upcoming Public Hearing I am providing you with input and suggestions regarding the Center Harbor boat launch on Squam Lake.

Since 1998, we have lived next to the boat launch. I can therefore attest that over these 23 years, things have changed...

1. The number of boats and kayaks launching has increased greatly. As a result the parking of boat trailers along the road has become a regular occurrence. On busy weekends 4-7 boat trailers are parked along the right side of the road along High Haith - this is a safety hazard with little kids increasingly riding their bikes, people walking and running. From time to time, people park boat trailers on Sturtevant Island (the dirt road) over the bridge. As you know, this is private property. Most of the time, 50+% of the vehicles towing the trailers do not have Center Harbor stickers (I have looked).
2. The usage has grown beyond a boat launch and is now being used as a beach. People come down with chairs, coolers and food. I recently spoke with the police about this as I regularly pick up trash and as you may know, there are bears in the area (I saw 2 as recently as 3 weeks ago). The fact that there is a picnic table and a porta potty at the launch, simply encourages usage as a beach vs a launch. I have called Marine Patrol twice in the past two years after not calling them for 21 years - last year someone left their boat anchored off the beach overnight and this year a boat was launched at about 7:30am on a Saturday and left anchored unattended. At about noon I called Marine Patrol.
3. The problem extends to the winter when ATVs and trucks launch onto the ice. Last year 12 trucks / trailers launched and parked on the ice for the day. The next day I went on the ice and picked up soda cans, beer cans and leftover sandwiches and such - all of which would have gone into the lake after ice out.

### Suggestions

Solving this is going to take a concerted effort because as I told the police, I believe it's common knowledge that launching and parking is not monitored or enforced. I would never think of launching / parking at the Sandwich Town Beach because I have heard rules are strictly enforced by the police.

- signage should be clearer regarding displaying the proper sticker to launch
- the vehicles and trailers must park in the lot - not on the road
- police should enforce with tickets that will reverse the behavior - a \$20 ticket is not going to act as a deterrent - it must be \$150 or higher. I suspect it is well known that the police do not enforce this - I have never seen tickets on vehicles in 23 years!
- remove the porta- potty and the picnic table. This should discourage usage as a beach.
- issue separate Center Harbor Boat Launch stickers - not the stickers used for the dump because a Center Harbor resident can simply give their friend from Meredith their 2nd dump sticker. Charge for the Center Harbor Boat Launch sticker. Issue a limited number. They need to be picked up at Town Hall.

Most of the people fortunate enough to have a house on Squam, are thoughtful stewards of the lake. We are therefore concerned about invasive plant species entering the lake. There is an organized group of people on Sturtevant Island that monitors the shoreline looking for invasive plants that would harm the lake. A lake monitor assigned to the boat launch for May, June, July & August to inspect boats being launched for invasive plants on their hulls and to alert the

police to parking / launching violations might go a long way to protect the lake. Is there a state-sponsored program that Center Harbor could make use of to defray the cost? Can the money collected by selling Center Harbor Boat Launch stickers go toward paying part of a Lake Monitor's cost?

Thanks in advance for reading this and considering the suggestions...

Tony Scotto  
5 Owls Head Road

On Sep 7, 2021, at 9:28 AM, Selectmen <[selectmen@centerharbornh.org](mailto:selectmen@centerharbornh.org)> wrote:

Good morning,

Sorry for the delay in responding to your email. It went to Aimee, who was on vacation last week.

The Selectmen have been made aware of issues at the boat launch including use of the area by non-residents and parking issues. The public hearing has been scheduled so the Selectmen can receive input as possible ways to address the issues.

If you can't attend, but would like to submit your concerns/suggestions, please send them to [selectmen@centerharbornh.org](mailto:selectmen@centerharbornh.org)

Thanks,  
Robin Woodaman  
Selectmen's Administrative Assistant

## Selectmen

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**From:** Carl Sack <~~Redacted Email~~>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 5:27 PM  
**To:** Selectmen  
**Subject:** High Haith Boat Launch

You don't often get email from ~~Redacted Email~~ [Learn why this is important](#)

I would like to see town stickers required to use the boat launch

I see a new curb cut going in across from the no parking signs. I would like the new no parking signs removed. The town owns the land and residents should be able to park on the road. The signs I am referring to are from the bridge heading up the hill.

We are going to have another year of 18 wheelers and loud construction, if the rich owner can tell you to put up parking signs I would like you to have him put up a 20-foot fence around the construction site to keep the noise down while he is building his mega-mansion.

Also put in extra money for the cold patch for the road, the town will need it. Haith Haith Road is in terrible shape due to the amount of construction vehicles using it.

I am pro letting people enjoy this wonderful lake.

PS: I live very close to the launch and the new building site.

Carl Sack  
292 High Haith

## Selectmen

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**From:** DAVID Hughes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 17, 2021 4:32 PM  
**To:** Center Harbor Selectmen  
**Subject:** High Haith Boat Launch

I have heard things are heating up and i am glad to see there will be a public hearing. Sorry but I will not be able to attend due to a medical problem. I wish this email to be my letter to the Board of Selectmen as my testimony. I would like to share my 2 Cents worth on any changes to any & all uses of High Haith Boat Launch. This is a very unique spot used by all kinds of people for all kinds of reasons from Center Harbor and yes elsewhere. This is the only open boat launch for this part of Squam Lake. The other more Northern one is Town of Sandwich beach which is some mileage from Sturdivant Bay either by road or lake.

This Launch has been talked about off & on, and a few years ago a group of neighbors set about cleaning the sandy area each spring and onward. But alas, some of those people have moved on and there is no neighbors donating their time & effort to keep the place clean.

It is my understanding, though I have not seen the deed in some time, that the land in question was donated to the town with the stipulation it was to be a boat launch. I know parking over the years both in the parking area and the roadside of High Haith Road has been problematic. If there was a way to 'paint' or 'flour' parking lines designating the way one should park their vehicle so as not to interfere with someone else's vehicle. Plus cutting back of vegetation & trees would make it less of a wet/damp ground area. Boat launching is usually a temporary situation, but the signage over the past few years has been missing or misinterpreted. I realize no one should monopolize the area as they also need to leave space for others. There has never been boat trailer parking at the launch area itself for years. Parking along High Haith road is now more difficult with the repaving and steep edge to the road.

So the question comes down to do we really need to fix something that is not broke? or listen to a minority who think they know everything. When I was a Selectman, we went over the regulations and status of the Boat Launch area. It is not, and cannot be, officially a Beach/Swim area, due to various liability & insurance issues. Thus any rules and/or regulations of the town beaches do not apply at High Haith Boat Launch area. If residents choose to use the launch as an access to public waters we should not create hinderances to that. Also, during my one term, we also designated that High Haith Boat Launch was Dog friendly. To which I have noticed the signage there does not meet these conditions.

Thus, to summarize, we don't need to do anything different than we have been doing. New people move into town expecting Center Harbor to be a friendly, easy going place. We don't need over regulation to stymy what we all enjoy in our town.

## Selectmen

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**From:** Barry Borella <barry@centerharbor.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 22, 2021 12:09 AM  
**To:** Selectmen  
**Subject:** High Haith Boat Launch

You don't often get email from [barry@centerharbor.com](#). [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Selectmen of Center Harbor

The Agenda for September 22 states "To receive input on proposed changes to parking at the High Haith Boat Launch," but does not specify what those proposed changes are.

Because I may be unable to attend the 6 PM Wednesday meeting, I wish to submit the following with respect to the High Haith Boat Launch.

On Sunday, Sept 19, I brought my kayak by cartop to the High Haith launch site. The majority of the parking space was taken up by two large trucks with long trailers. Until recently they would have been required to reposition to the unpaved portion of the ROW on High Haith Road. after launching. With two other small cars in the lot, the only way I was able to park was to ask a person who had stopped to use her cell phone if she would move her car out of the lot so I could park and launch my kayak.

In past years the parking lot has been adequate for the cars that normally show up. If it were occasionally full, the overflow cars parked in the unpaved portion of the High Haith Road ROW, along with all vehicles with trailers.

The only public launch site on Squam Lake not restricted to town residents is in Holderness. Unfortunately, parking there is restricted to vehicles with trailers, even if they have handicap plates. Most canoeists and kayakers transport by car-top, so this effectively makes the state site in Holderness site unavailable, as it would require unloading and leaving their boat and expensive equipment unattended while they find a parking place in town. I hope Center Harbor will not make it this difficult for those of us who car-top our boats as the state does in Holderness.

I am told that the reason for the change is that people are complaining. What is the nature of the complaint? In the years I have been coming to the landing I have never seen parked vehicles obstructing traffic. Who is complaining? It could only be residents of High Haith, most or all of who have unobstructed access to the lake – as opposed to most of the launch site users, who do not. I hope the town will not make access to the lake more difficult for the majority who do not own lakefront property.

When the present bridge was built it would have enhanced opportunities for kayaks and canoes if it had been a bit higher. At high water, it is a tight fit for a canoe to pass under that bridge. The launch site would be greatly enhanced for those of us who paddle if an area near the fire hydrant could be cleared to facilitate the launching of kayaks and canoes, or, better yet, if a small opening could be made on the ROW on the east side of the bridge to access that narrow channel, kayakers and canoeists would have access to Moultonborough Bay and the Yard Islands. At present, to reach Moultonborough Bay or points beyond, like the Yard islands, (absent trespassing) it is necessary to circumnavigate High Haith Island which is substantially more time-consuming than if one were able to launch into Moultonborough Bay.

Respectfully submitted,  
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