

February 20, 2020

Dear Mr. Long & Fellow Members of the Board,

I am writing in response to an application number Z2019 - 07 by John and Lenore Bellinger. This is for rezoning to build a dock on the property located at 325 East Stoner Lake road. On January 30th 2020 at a zoning board of appeals meeting there were three letters from the adjoining neighbors children with concerns to our project. I feel my husband was unfairly treated as this was the first time he heard of these concerns was at this meeting. The zoning board should have sent us a copy prior to the meeting. This way my husband could have properly prepared to address the concerns. I urge the zoning board to consider the following. Treg Lewis is one of the children to the Lewis family, he does not own property adjoining mine. Therefore should not have a say. But I would like to address his concerns regarding the loons and there habitat. Loons are an excellent indicator of water quality as they require Crystal clear lakes.(which makes it easier for them to see prey underwater).Lakes with coves and islands are preferred as they provide cover from predators while nesting and resting. Loons have adapted well to humans on the lake, boardwalks and docks especially in the Adirondacks living on the lake. Sometimes you will find them nesting under boardwalks. The male loon will select its nesting site. Loons cannot walk well on land, so nests are built close to an embankment. They are will often have a steep drop-off that allows the bird to approach The nest from underwater. Many times a nesting pair of loons will reuse the same site year after year. Male and female loons build a nest together over the course of a week in May and early June. The baby loons leave the nest after one day but parents continue to take care of them for about 3 months. Mr. Treg Lewis's concern was the ecosystem. By us putting a boardwalk/ dock through a wetland is not going to affect the loons. The loons are not endangered. They adapt well to Lake life boardwalks/docks built by humans. If Mr. Treg Lewis's concerns was really the ecosystem then he should be complaining about the fireworks on the lake that are being let off during the Fourth of July. These fireworks are polluting East Stoner Lake and the loons habitat on crystal clear waters. Mr Treg Lewis's concerns do not seem to be the ecosystem. Mr. Trek Lewis's concerns are more so what is going on in the Bellinger's backyard. My husband and I have not done anything illegal. Everything we have done so far we have gotten permits for. We've had to jump through many hoops. We've had to apply for permits from 4 different entities. APA (Adirondack Park Agency), Town of Caroga Lake, Army Corps of Engineers and DEC . Another issue Mr Treg Lewis also talked about was the maintenance of the boardwalk as well as the foot and boat traffic. There are many structures on the lake that are falling down with trees growing through them. These structures should be condemned. There are also many boardwalks/docks that could use repair on East Stoner Lake. Once again why are you singling out the Bellinger family. Am I the only one that will not be able to have a dock. Am I supposed to sit on my deck overlooking the lake and watch everyone interacting with there family and friends on there docks . I have indicated to the Town of Caroga ,

APA, Army Corps of engineers and DEC many times that I am disabled. Once again I'm being discriminated against based on my disability. June 15th 2016 at a county auction my husband and I purchased the property at 325 East Stoner Lake. The property was auctioned off at the Holiday inn 308 North Comrie Ave State route 30A in the town of Johnstown New York. The property was auctioned off as waterfront property 1.10 acres. Shortly after we bought the property, the adjoining neighbors were turning us in for everything under the sun. Each time I met with the building inspector John Duesler, there was nothing found. I've addressed my concerns with him many times feeling like we are being harassed. We have not done anything wrong, illegal or without obtaining the proper permits. I also addressed with him on many occasions that I am disabled and would like to access my shoreline. Fulton county fraudulently misled me to believe I was buying waterfront property. Well at least that's what they were auctioning off on June 15th 2016. Rural waterfront property !!! For many years they collected taxes on waterfront rural property indeed the front part of my property is actually wetlands. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would never be able to obtain a permit to access my shoreline. In the summer of 2016 the assessor's office reassessed my property. Somewheres on my property I have a 10 x100 foot Pathway to access my shoreline. Which I now pay taxes on. In a letter dated October 19th 2018 to the New York State Adirondack Park Agency under the freedom of information act,I requested information on permits for boardwalks/docks for property lots 114, 120,130,134,144,235,255 and 331 on East Stoner Lake. I was later told by the Adirondack Park Agency after a diligent search they did not have any record of these properties ever obtaining any permits to put in docks/boardwalks. At that time I also indicated to them that I felt like I was being discriminated against based on my disability. The individuals with disability act protects individuals with disabilities. I have questioned several times for several years why am I being treated differently. Why must I apply for 4 permits through 4 different entities and jump through so many hoops. When my neighbors have gone ahead and done whatever they please. In an email dated January 28th 2020 to Mr. Long and fellow members of the board, this letter is from Treg Lewis. "Our family has been on the lake for over 90 years and there has been so much development"however the project threatens one of the last areas of wild shoreline on Stoner Lake in a critical habitat for loons ,ducks ,wetland vegetation and other life that are critical to the stoner Lake ecosystem". with respect to the Bellinger family I respectively ask the zoning board to deny this request in the interest of the lake. Mr Treg Lewis has no interest in the ecosystem of the lake, if he did he would be worried about the hundreds of fireworks that are let off each year on the 4th of July polluting the lake and scaring the loons and the ducks away. If Mr. Lewis is constantly worried about what is going on in the Bellinger's backyard perhaps maybe he should have purchased it on June 15th 2016 from the auction. Just because his family has been on the lake for five generations /90 years does not give him and his family any special privileges. In a letter dated January 28th 2020 from Thomas Lewis he accuses the Bellinger group for not having any thoughtfulness of the environment." they have already clear-cut and drastically changed the landscape of the area with the site work they have done performed and based on prior practices I do not see how any building outs going forward

will be any different." Once again I would like to address the fact that the Bellinger family have not done anything illegal. We do have a lot of respect for the environment and the trees that we took down were dead or potentially posed harm to my family or my camp. Dead trees in a dry summer year could possibly cause out of control forest fires. Just because your family has been part of the Caroga Lake community for five generations does not give you the right to harass the Bellinger family. In this letter I hope you see my reason why I feel attacked and threatened I hope you take this into consideration. I hope this letter gives you a better out look on why I am requesting this dock to be approved. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely yours,  
Lenore Bellinger  
518-320-5654

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lenore Bellinger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "L" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.