

Lara Kritzer

From: Sonya Kurzweil <sonya@skdc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, June 2, 2021 1:36 PM
To: Lara Kritzer
Cc: Nicole Banks; Luis Perez Demorizi; Carolyn K. Stapleton; Marc Welch; Maria P. Rose; Linda M. Walsh; Marcia Johnson, LWVN President; Jennifer Steel; TKuklinski@aol.com; Ruthanne Fuller; Jonathan Yeo; mangi@rnc.com; Beth Wilkinson; Srdjan Nevelkovik; Barbara Darnell (badarnell@gmail.com); grootgregory@yahoo.com; Ruth Balser; nlichtin1@gmail.com; City Council; cynthia.creem@mahouse.gov; Megan on Jake's team
Subject: Levingston Cove project
Attachments: CPC meeting, 6-8-21.pdf; ATT00001.htm

[DO NOT OPEN links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Lara,

Here is our feedback regarding the Levingston Cove project. Please forward this message to all members of the CPC. We have copied other city officials as well.

Thank you,
Sonya

Dear Chairman Armstrong/CPC Committee Members,

We are writing on behalf of Friends of Crystal Lake in support of the project to preserve Levingston Cove. As we all know, Levingston Cove is in dire straits. It has become a very shabby eroded beach where adults, children and off leash dogs swim in water that is not tested, near outfalls and fishing lines being cast and boats unloaded, launched and reloaded. Driving can be hazardous during summer in the area due to all the activity and many parked cars. There are many instances of public changing and urination as well as swim attire that is not appropriate for the middle of a residential neighborhood. One of us was told recently by a female summer visitor that she did not feel "safe" here. Many of us understand what she meant. The area is completely unregulated. Needless to say, conservation measures are badly needed. So are regulations. And we have long advocated for both of these.

We fully endorse the basic goals of the Task Force/PR&C recovery plan. However, there are two features concerning in terms of potentially undermining conservation and preservation goals and further overwhelming the area. These are the expansion at the "fishing wall" (cantilever extension, additional wall and railings) and the large deck and seating walls on the lower path which clearly create a very inviting beach at the shore. *Please see the attached brief slide show for further details on our view regarding these features and a naturalistic, inclusive, beautiful and cost effective alternative we and many of our neighbors (See list of supporters below) have endorsed. Also included are suggestions for sustaining improvements.*

Our impression from attending the CPC pre proposal virtual meeting May 11 is that committee members were especially concerned to *enable* active recreation here (e.g. swimming) with the restoration plan as a way to contain the problems. They did not seem to recognize the seriousness of abandoning long standing regulations regarding swimming, dog leashing, boating, after dark use of the Cove, etc. And that the beach at the Bathhouse is "locked" and "not accessible" for almost 10 months of the year. As we do appreciate the joys of year around shore access for all, our plan below does provide for those seeking this, but not at the expense of the basic goals of preserving the Cove in keeping with its tradition as a naturalistic, *decent* setting for passive recreation.

Thank you for your consideration of our point of view. There are many of us who, after the results of a decade of no regulation of the Cove, recent experience with Covid and multiple Lake closings last year, feel very strongly that

adjustments to the Task Force/PR&C plan and measures to sustain improvements should be made. We hope that CPC funds this project but reins in the very expensive, expansive features at odds with conservation and that seek to redefine the basic function and character of the cove Louise Levingston (one of our original Friends of Crystal Lake) would want to preserve.

Very Sincerely,

Sonya Kurzweil, Ph.D., Pres., Friends of Crystal Lake

Atila Habip, VP, Newton Highlands

Ray Kurzweil, Sec., Newton Highlands

Bob Beal, Treasurer, Waban/Cape Cod

Some of our Supporters (blind copied)

Helen Drinan and Family, Newton Highlands

Joe Sanroma, Newton Highlands

Chris Sanroma, Newton Highlands

Carol Summers, Newton Centre

Dr. Karen Ayas, Newton Highlands

Dr. Ann Arnt, Newton Centre

Dr. Ken Arnt, Newton Centre

Dr. Emanuele Viola, Newton Highlands

Dr. Jasmina Hasanhodzic, Newton Highlands

Lisa Gordan, Newton Centre

Amy Kurzweil, Newton Highlands

Carol Barenberg, Newton Centre

Carolyn Connolly, Newton Upper Falls

Nick Mariano, West Newton

Dr. Sasha Helper, Newton Highlands

Dr. Joel Gershenfeld, Auburndale

Dr. Susan Gershenfeld, Auburndale

Dr. Mira Zinger, Chestnut Hill

Derek Buchler, Chestnut Hill

Sela Erbatur, Newton

Reha Erbatur, Newton

Izi Bruker, Oak Hill

Lior Sabag, Newton Highlands

Hakan Habip, Newton Highlands

Korin Gavriyeloglu, Newton Highlands

Canan Safar, Newton Centre

Dr. Perin Gokce, Newtonville

Yesem Or, Newtonville

Cana Evcen, Newtonville

Mete Habip, Newton Centre

Serdar Uckun, Oak Hill

Jan Skvarka, Waban

Darina Skvarkova, Waban

Dr. Ozlem Ergun, Newton Centre

Dr. Ayse Ozatilgan, Oak Hill

Danna Zinger, Chestnut Hill

Jerome Meier, Newtonville