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October 7, 2014

Camden Select Board
Camden, ME 04843

Gentlemen:

I am writing on behalf of myself and also as the President of the Hosmer Pond Association with respect to our ongoing concerns regarding the expansion of the Camden Snow Bowl. The concerns that we express were underscored at the recent Planning Board session in which the new lighting plan was approved. After reviewing the plan and receiving what appears to be adequate responses to our questions, the new lighting plan appears to provide a good balance between safety for the skiers and ambient light pollution in our neighborhood. The issue that was underscored at the meeting had its genesis in the original plan submitted by the Snow Bowl back in May.

I was not in attendance at the meeting(s) and thus, do not have personal knowledge as to what specifically transpired. However, based upon questions by Lowry Sargent and responses given by the lighting consultant at the last two Planning Board meetings (that his company was NOT asked to provide a balance between safety and light pollution originally, only safety) it appears that the Planning Board requested a revision to the original plan to take the effects upon the neighborhood into consideration. While the new plan appears to do that, the issue for us in the neighborhood is *why* did it take the Planning Board to obtain this consideration?

Why did the individuals responsible for the project NOT consider this originally? From our perspective, the answer is actually fairly simple – until this request was made, there has been essentially no evidence that any decisions made with respect to this project have taken the needs and concerns of the families neighboring the Snow Bowl into consideration. The question again is WHY? WHY has our neighborhood been treated so disrespectfully? The Snow Bowl in our neighborhood is not an amenity for us. It does not enhance the value of our properties. In fact, quite the opposite, especially when at 10:00 p.m. on Saturday nights in the summer, the windows in my own house actually shake when they turn on the music for the latest party.

The members of the Hosmer Pond Association have lost their confidence in this town to make the right decisions as it pertains to the them with respect to the Snow Bowl. Who really knows what is going on out there, other than Landon Fake. And I am speaking for the neighborhood. No one trusts Landon to be straight with us on any level or to be able to get a straight answer out of him that is on point. The other night he was asked by Lowry Sargent if there was a number to call if

the lights were accidentally left on in the night. Landon had no number and said he could probably get one. Why had this not been considered by him or by Pat in advance? This is a big deal in this town, and especially to us, yet we didn't see any members of the Select Board at the Planning Board meetings when the lighting was discussed.

I hear complaints from my neighbors close to the mountain that they can smell manure, and we are told that none is being used, yet no other explanation is given. According to tests taken this week the pond is now less clear. The e-coli count was tested at significantly higher levels this summer, sand bars are continuing to form and despite all of this, I have no doubt that the report you will hear this evening is either that none of this exists or that all is well.

While I am not trying to be accusatory, especially when a number of us are trying to work with the town to remedy the deficiencies I allude to, at the end of the day the buck stops at the Select Board level. While one well-funded group is trying to turn a mountain with a 900 foot vertical drop into a destination resort, who is looking after the interests of those of us who must live next to the Snow Bowl, both during and after construction?

There is still much to be done – new lights in the parking lot which are of real concern to the neighbors along with a huge lodge construction project. Who can we count on from the town to look down the road at what is being done and prospectively take our concerns into account with this project and to protect us as much as possible from noise and light pollution?

Very truly yours,



Dana F. Strout
President of the Hosmer Pond Association