

This seems like a most unfortunate position.

First, ponds aren't harbors.

Second, swimming rafts aren't "moorings."

Third, if this kind of viewshed intrusion goes unquestioned and unopposed it sets an extremely bad precedent. Who, for example, is to object should Seth's Pond become cluttered with swimming rafts.

Seth's Pond is very visible, pleasantly so, from Lambert's Cove Road. I submit that the prominent placement of an unauthorized swimming raft represents poor judgment about open land management by the Town. As I said, in my original communication, when I wanted to put a dock and stairs into Seth's Pond in the early 1980s I was told I had to obtain the approval of the Conservation Commission. Which I did. With conditions. To my mind, as this was a novel application, the Conservation Commission set a precedent, a good one, for regulation of these matters.

Ask the Land Bank about the importance of unspoiled viewsheds. While there are a couple of swimming rafts in Ice House Pond, they are prior to the Land Bank's becoming involved with its destiny. And the Land Bank, itself, doesn't allow rafts or any other flotation devices in the Manaquayak Pond Preserve.

Sincerely,

Nick Puner

-----Original Message-----

From: Jen Rand <townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov>

To: Conservation Commission <concomm@westtisbury-ma.gov>; NX542@aol.com

Sent: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 8:21 am

Subject: RE: [West Tisbury, MA] Raft in Seth's Pond (Sent by NICHOLAS PUNER, NX542@aol.com)

Mr. Puner,

The Select Board, acting as Harbor Masters do not regulate moorings. So, the owner does not need permission from the town for this float..

Thank you,
Jennifer

Jennifer Rand
Town Administrator
PO Box 278
West Tisbury, MA 02575
(508) 696-0102

From: Conservation Commission <>

Sent: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 4:48 PM

To: NX542@aol.com

Cc: Jen Rand (townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov) <townadmin@westtisbury-ma.gov>

Subject: RE: [West Tisbury, MA] Raft in Seth's Pond (Sent by NICHOLAS PUNER, NX542@aol.com)

Hi Mr. Puner,

Thank you for your inquiry. Bottom anchors floats/rafts are typically permitted by the local Harbor Master. In West Tisbury that is the Select Board. I have copied Jen Rand the Town Administrator on this email.

I did look at the 2021 aerial of Seth's Pond and the float I see is not off any of the Focus properties as far as I can tell. I've attached a screen shot for you. There are two structures, the one in the upper corner (is this the one you mean?) and one on the left hand side near the Finn property.

Please follow up with Jen Rand as I will be out of the office until next Thursday.

Maria McFarland
Board Administrator

From: Contact form at West Tisbury, MA <>
Sent: Thursday, June 16, 2022 10:23 AM
To: mmcfarland <concomm@westtisbury-ma.gov>
Subject: [West Tisbury, MA] Raft in Seth's Pond (Sent by NICHOLAS PUNER, NX542@aol.com)

Hello mmcfarland,
NICHOLAS PUNER (NX542@aol.com) has sent you a message via your contact form (<https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/user/30/contact>) at West Tisbury, MA.
If you don't want to receive such e-mails, you can change your settings at <https://www.westtisbury-ma.gov/user/30/edit>.

Message:

I would like to call the Commission's attention to the raft that has been placed smack in the middle of Seth's Pond. It is difficult to think that the Commission approved this installation, as it is an eyesore, an unwelcome addition to the viewshed of the pond.

When I wanted to install a dock on my property at the back of the pond, along with a couple of wooden steps from the shore to the pond (this was in the late 1970s) it had to be approved, and conditioned by the Conservation Commission.

I suspect, but do not know for a fact, that Focus is responsible for the new raft (and it is worth noting that it has not been there before, not in that location at any rate).

I urge the Commission to determine the responsibility for this; further I urge the Commission to require it to be removed forthwith, along with what appears to be an anchoring float.