

March 23, 2022

West Tisbury Conservation Commission
Town Hall
West Tisbury MA

Dear Conservation Commission:

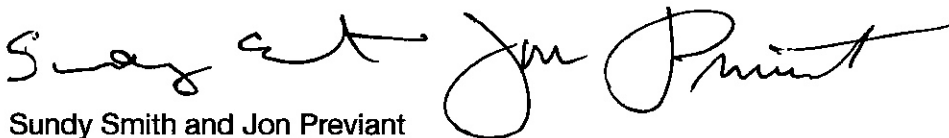
We are writing to request approval for an amendment to the determination you made last May on our plans for a stairs to our swimming spot on Seth's Pond. Our confession and apologies: We totally blanked on the requirement to remove the stairs in the winter. No excuses, except if we had ignored the stipulation deliberately we would not have sent Maria a picture of the offense! We definitely did not build the stairs for removal in the winter. If we can find a solution that you approve to meet the goals of the removal without removing the whole stairs we would obviously appreciate that.

Maria informed us that the purpose of the removal is to prevent damage to the stairs by ice and high water during the winter that would result in debris in the pond. We understand the goal but from our experience, removal of the stairs in the winter would not accomplish that. The winter pond level is at its lowest. We can easily walk around the pond during that time. If there is high water it has been in the spring and early summer. We think we have come up with a flexible plan that could protect the stairs from water damage during high water whenever it occurs without removing the whole stairs. Plan as follows, with pictures attached.

1. Cut through the stringer and remove the bottom two steps. This would bring the stairs 3-4 feet above the current pond level.
2. Attach 3/4 inch untreated plywood ramp, approximately 4 feet long, inside the stringers with bolts for easy removal. Cross treads would be added for traction. This would make for easy removal of this section either in the winter or whenever the water was high.

We think this would achieve the goals of the removal without a full removal of the existing stairs.

Thanks to all of you for your consideration and the work you do.



Sundry Smith and Jon Previant
13 Scotty's Lane
West Tisbury MA

508-693-0831



↓ Insert
ramp

CUT STRIP^s
Here

remove
2
treads