

Primary residence: 32 New London Rd.  
Mystic, CT 06355  
Secondary residence: 36R Long Pond Rd. S.  
Ledyard, CT 06339

January 25, 2023

Ledyard Town Council

Public Hearing: Long-term lease of land on Lantern Hill Road/Bush Pond from Robert and Mary Graham

I have come in support of the town's acceptance of this generous offer/lease that will provide a window on the remarkable ecosystem of Bush Pond and the contiguous mile-long Long Pond. I own property that is directly across Long Pond from the site and have often kayaked with my grandchildren and friends on Bush Pond.

It is indeed a "magical site." It offers everything from a seasonal waterfall of ice-cold water to Great Blue Herons, Swans, Kingfishers, Cormorants, Mallards, and Ospreys. Turtles plop into the water from their sunning spots on branches and rocks. Otters leave their empty fresh clam shells and their classic V water trails. Fishermen delight in everything from Blue Gills to Trout, Bass, Perch, and Pickerel. Water Lilies bloom, Frogs croak, and Dragonflies whiz by. Beavers leave evidence of their presence at the mouth of the culvert. Invasive water plants and bog-like patches add mystery to the scene.

Perhaps, under the supervision of the Parks & Recreation Department, a weather-resistant sign could be erected to help visitors identify the flora and fauna in residence. I would also suggest that the town provide regular maintenance to set the standard for cleanliness and that the police respond promptly to calls from concerned neighbors/residents – based on "historic" interloping on adjacent properties – especially on hot summer days.

This can be a wonderful opportunity to share a natural gem and to nurture respectful appreciation. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kathleen P. O'Beirne