

September 14, 2020

Hudson Conservation Commission
12 School Street
Hudson, NH 03051

Dear Fellow Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express my appreciation for the opportunity to serve on this Commission. During my time serving, I have come to learn so much about our wonderful town, its forests, flora, fauna, wildlife, aquatic life, and our vital watershed resources. I have experienced the tedious and sometimes stressful work of processing wetland exception applications, working as a team to purchase land for conservation, and getting our community engaged in the enjoyment of our beautiful spaces. I am a better community member for serving on this commission.

Mr. Dickinson, Ms. Hebert, Mr. Veloso, and Mr. Brownrigg have all been welcoming and supportive colleagues. Mr. Collins I would like to thank him for his mentorship, especially for his dedication and efforts in ensuring our Commission follows through on its responsibilities. I would last like to thank Mr. Gagnon, for his passion and focus to fight for the protection of land and watershed, despite the efforts of outside influences to silence and stop you from speaking your truth. Doing the right thing is not always the easiest.

I will close this letter by officially notifying you all of my intent to resign from this Commission, effective immediately. This is a difficult decision for me, as now more than ever, our Town needs strong voices and leaders who will speak for the protection of our natural resources. Sadly, I no longer have confidence in this Commission to be an effective advocate of the environment. In my brief tenure, I have witnessed many concerning acts of interference by Select Board Members and Town Officials, meant to limit this Commission from doing its job. I have been silenced during meetings, my agenda items intercepted, I have watched my colleagues be yelled at, shamed and attacked inappropriately and unethically during non public sessions. I have even received calls from Town Officials warning me to be silent or get sued by Hillwood Developers, who "have a file on me". Selectman Roger Coutu even went as far to reprimand me for my sanctioned research to gain public recreational usage on state lands (formerly known as the Circumferential Highway corridor), I will no longer accept the blatant disregard for the environmental impact by the current leadership in this town. I do not blame or mean to offend my fellow Commission members, I will not speak for you, but I suspect I am not alone in my frustration. I will step down now and use my time, my expertise and leadership skills to be a powerful voice for the protection of our valuable resources, before it is too late.

I hope to continue to support this Commission, promote our protected spaces, and assist where I can. I wish you all the best, thank you for our time serving together.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Parkhurst
Alternate Member of the Hudson Conservation Commission