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Natural Resources Commission
141 Keyes Road
Concord, MA 01742

August 5, 2020

Dear Members: Subject: 676 Monument St. August 12

As one of four Fenn graduates in my immediate family, I have a long term association with the School reaching back to the early 1940's and have lived most of my life within the vicinity of the campus.

At this moment, the School seeks permission from the NRC to construct a dock for boat access to the Concord River on a recently acquired parcel of land on Monument Street. Approval is sought for a dock large enough to service 22 canoes which could accommodate 44 students/campers at a time. To my knowledge, riverine activities have never been offered as part of the School's curriculum. I'm wondering if this is about to change. Will students now be paddling on the Concord River between September and May when the School is in session ? Or will it merely be a newly offered activity to the popular Fenn Summer Camp Program now operated on the Carr Road campus ? To phrase it differently, is the addition of the dock and all that it implies, designed as an enhancement to the primary, "educational mission" of the School, or is it instead, a glamorous addition to the Summer Camp Program and the profit which that generates for the School ? Who else will have access and usage of these facilities? Will it be available as a party venue ? Could it become the vanguard of an entirely new sports campus for the School ? With an acquisition cost for this new parcel running well into the 7 figures, there must be something more planned here than just a canoe dock. With its

fragile, riverside location, is it asking too much to inquire about the long range plans for the parcel as a whole ? If not now.....when ? If not the NRC.....who ? One immediate question that flashes to mind, is the prosaic one of “on site toilet facilities” for 44 campers and staff, adjacent to the wetlands. Where will the rest room, septic and leach field be located ? Or will unsightly Porta-Potties solve the problem ? Certainly this subject is one of legitimate inquiry by the NRC during this initial phase of the approval process.

Respectfully submitted,

Pierce B. Browne

Cc: Delia Kaye