

Correspondence received by the Concord Select
Board

Week Ending – August 25, 2025

1. Robin Baughman 144 Southfield Rd.
2. Jennifer Galvin
3. Ellen Quackenbush 206 Prairie St.
4. Dennis Fiori 309 Strawberry Hill Rd.

Please Note: The Select Board Correspondence policy has been updated as of January 27, 2025. The letters posted here reflect the views and opinions of the author as recorded in the body of their email. Neither the Select Board nor Town staff have verified or reviewed the contents. The Select Board and the Town do not necessarily agree, condone, support or advocate the ideas expressed in these letters and have not verified any factual statements made in the letters.

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to express my absolute shock having just read The Bridge article that points out the error reporting the tax impact of the amenities building in the voter mailing. I mailed by ballot on Thursday, August 7th and never received any notification of this error, nor the opportunity to re-cast my ballot. The Bridge article is the first I am hearing of this situation.

Having voted by mail, I personally read the mailing and assumed the amenities building would cost \$270/household/annually based on what was communicated in what I presumed was a document that was accurate and factual. The mailer not only influenced my vote on the amenities building, but also impacted my decision when voting for the roads project. I am sure I am not the only person whose votes were influenced by this misinformation. Given that over 1000 citizens voted by mail, and 600+ did so before the error was found, I feel strongly that this election should be voided and re-done. The integrity of our town elections as well as the trust we have in our elected representatives depend on the dissemination of accurate information. I am respectfully requesting that the Select Board do what is right to ensure voters are properly informed on each ballot question and are given another chance to cast their votes once that is done.

Sincerely,
Robin Baughman
144 Southfield Rd

I can no longer stay silent about your mishandling of the Concord Skatepark, whose problems stem not from skaters, but from your neglect, poor decisions, and abhorrent actions. You've taken a positive outlet for the community and turned it into a problem of your own making.

The paint you approved or applied has made the ramps unsafe, putting skaters at risk of serious injury. Wasps' nests are left unchecked while you pour energy into installing cameras used more to accuse skaters of vandalism than to protect the community. Trees were removed without going through the Tree Warden—against Concord protocol—not for the good of the park, but to serve personal agendas. Not to mention that, while real hazards are ignored, skaters are met with accusations of crime instead of solutions.

This is not community safety. This is not maintenance. It is harassment, intimidation, and abuse of power. Every move you make seems designed not to support the skatepark, but to undermine it and push skaters out so the school can claim the land for parking. The Concord Skatepark belongs to the town—not to you, not to CCHS, and not to anyone's personal vision of control. Your actions have made the park more dangerous, more hostile, less accessible, and a major liability. That is on you.

Here's what needs to happen immediately:

- Remove the unsafe paint from the ramps and restore them to proper riding condition
- Address wasps' nests and other hazards with professional pest control
- Establish real maintenance oversight by qualified personnel, not selective enforcement by officers with nothing to do with the park or the skate community
- Provide transparency about who is recording skaters, who is watching the footage, and what the plan is moving forward for the skatepark

I have the support of the neighbors on Bristers Hill Road, as well as from local skate leaders and park builders. If these steps are not addressed, we will have no choice but to escalate this issue publicly and formally.

Jen Galvin

I also want to note: I was personally stopped and accused of vandalism simply because "footage" showed my car at the park regularly. That makes sense—I'm a skateboarder. Targeting skaters for being present at the skatepark is profiling, not protection.

Let the vote at the Special Election stand

To the Concord Selectboard,

Like many Concordians, I was surprised that the amenities building failed at the August 19th Special Town elections. But the opinion expressed by some on the joint School Committee meeting on August 20th citing the error in the election mails overstating annual cost to taxpayers as the reason for the failure at the polls is faulty logic.

The Bridge has consistently reported the correct tax impact figures for both the amenities building and roads and safety work. Many people attended forums explaining the rationale for both requests. In my opinion, the real difference between these two requests was the depth of planning and level of respect in the public presentations for both debt exclusions. The Public Works Department and Public Works Commission explained, in great detail, how the \$27.5 million would actually reduce taxpayers' road repair burdens over time and provide much needed safety improvements for both pedestrians and cyclists.

In contrast, the School Committee was disjointed and sometimes disrespectful in their planning and presentations. They missed the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) FY2025 deadline, and, wisely, the CPC declined to provide an exception for the School Committee's error. They also requested a vote at Town Meeting before the sewer connection for the building was finalized. But, for me, the most disappointing comment was by the School Committee Chair, who framed the vote in moral terms---" Are we a town that wants to make the town accessible or not?" (Concord Bridge, August 11, 2025).

One can be supportive of the ADA and accessibility for all Concord residents and still have voted against the amenities building based on School Committee's poor planning. At the August 20th meeting, the School Committee discussed "Plan B"—going back to the CPC to request funding for the FY2026 round. I strongly encourage the School Committee to take this approach.

Questioning the vote is a dangerous. Neither the School Board nor the School Committee know why voters voted for or against the amenities building. One can argue that poor planning was as much of a factor as the error in tax impact in the Special Election mailing. I voted and do not want my vote questioned after the fact. I believe other voters would agree with me.

Please let the vote stand.

Respectfully,
Ellen Quackenbush
206 Prairie St

Select Board Members,

We have followed the activities of the Permanent Memorial Subcommittee as we advocated preserving parcel 1693 as a precious green space. We believe the only memorial should be one to commemorate the sacrifices of Concordians in the American Revolution. Toward this end we support the tentative recommendation of the PMS that parcel 1693 become a park for quiet contemplation and strongly urge the inclusion of a memorial to Concord's American Revolutionary War patriots.

Sincerely,

Melissa Saalfield

Joanne Gibson

Peter Lee

Ellen Emerson

Bruce Kohler

Beth van Duzer

Timothy Whitney

Pierce Browne

Nancy Nelson

Dennis Fiori