

From: **Sally Duston** <[sduston49@gmail.com](mailto:sduston49@gmail.com)>

Date: Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 7:40 AM

Subject: Treasure Island

To: Thetford Selectboard <[Selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:Selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)>, <[townmanager@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:townmanager@thetfordvt.gov)>

(This was my post earlier this week on the listserve, with two small additions. It was suggested I send it to you as a more "official" opinion. I would like to add that I appreciate those who volunteered to take on Treasure Island and get it spiffed up! Sally)

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"This is where I am coming from - swam/picnicked there in the 70's - 80's, continued but added swimming lessons for child in the 90's, go there sporadically since then. Lately went to fun CC Winter Walk with participants of all ages, and a couple of weeks ago helped with cleanup. The work day was an interesting mix of people from town, and people who live on the lake, all of whom clearly care about Lake Fairlee.

Plus, I filled out the offered survey a couple of years ago about what I'd like to see at Treasure Island, and one big piece for me, besides having fun, was having educational programs about nature, the environment, outdoor activities, water safety, etc. Appropriate stuff, in other words. Programs like those seemed high on other people's suggestions, if I remember.

The proposed trails I hear about seem like a great idea to inform kids and adults about what is around them. Conservation is so much about communication. There are always people moving in and out, especially now, and it is important to get the "living with nature, not harming it" message across all the time. Paths, when well planned and minimal, also help keep people in one area, and protects others. (That's the hope anyway.)

I realize all this requires upkeep, but then what doesn't. Perhaps one day it will have solar panels somewhere (new solar pavilion?), and it's electrical needs will be generated on site!

It is a recreation area in a natural setting, so always a compromise but we are exceedingly fortunate that the town had the foresight to acquire it all those years ago. It is a jewel, and I am especially glad none of it was sold off, as earlier suggested.

My two cents -  
Sally Duston  
Thetford Ctr"

## Marion Betts

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**From:** Lilian Shen <lshen@thetfordvt.gov> on behalf of Lilian Shen  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2022 5:34 PM  
**To:** Marion Betts  
**Subject:** LACK OF PERMITS Re: WETLANDS and TRAIL BUILDING along undeveloped Lakeshore  
**Attachments:** image002.png; Untitled attachment 00027.html; image001.jpg; Untitled attachment 00030.html; TI TRAILS MAP Plan Dec '21.pdf; Untitled attachment 00033.html

Please see letter from District Wetlands Ecologist Julie Follensbee and Lake and Shoreland Analyst Misha Cetner.

If the town build this trail without permits it would be a violation, with fines and enforcement.

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Lilian Shen <lshen@thetfordvt.gov>  
**Subject:** WETLANDS and TRAIL BUILDING along undeveloped Lakeshore  
**Date:** June 9, 2022 at 4:41:37 PM EDT  
**To:** "Follensbee, Julie" <Julie.Follensbee@vermont.gov>, Bryan Gazda <bgazda@thetfordvt.gov>  
**Cc:** Stuart Blood <ssblood@riseup.net>, "Marchione, Alison" <Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov>, Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov

Hello Julie,

Thank you for your reply. I am forwarding our correspondence to Bryan Gazda, our Town Manager, who is working with the committee putting in the trails, and is the primary contact. He will likely be in charge of applying for a wetland permit.

I appreciate this information and your help with ensuring that Class II wetlands receive the protection allocated to them under state regulations.

Thanks again,  
Li

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**Subject:** RE: TRAIL BUILDING along undeveloped Lakeshore  
**Date:** June 9, 2022 at 3:37:18 PM EDT  
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**Cc:** "Marchione, Alison" <Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov>, "Cetner, Misha" <Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov>

Hello Li and Stuart,  
As Misha noted, there are confirmed Class II wetlands on the north portion of property. I've sketched in blue approximately where I observed wetlands during a 2020 site visit

to the property to review a different proposal. This is not an accurate boundary, nor does it show the regulated 50-foot buffer zone. At that time, we suggested that a wetland delineation would be a good next step to determine the actual wetland boundaries for planning purposes. I still recommend that. Here is a list of consultants that do that work: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands/what/id/wetland-consultant-list>

**Julie Follensbee** | District Wetlands Ecologist  
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation  
Watershed Management Division, Wetlands Program  
Davis 3, 1 National Life Dr | Montpelier, VT 05620-3901  
802-490-6175 (office)  
<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/wetlands>

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**From:** Cetner, Misha <[Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov](mailto:Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov)>  
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Li,

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If the duff layer was to be removed, is there anything proposed to be set in it's place?

The northern end of the proposed trail area is a Class II wetland and the creation of a trail in a wetland would likely be jurisdictional to the Wetlands Program as well. I've cc'd Julie Follensbee from the Wetlands Program to make her aware of this project.

Given that it's likely a Shoreland permit would be needed to build the trail and that it's early/mid-June, it's not feasible for a Shoreland permit to be issued by early July as those permits include a 30-day public notice period. If you'd like, I'd be happy to meet with you and others on site at some point this summer to discuss this project and the permitting process.

Thanks,  
Misha

**Misha Cetner**, Lake & Shoreland Permit Analyst  
Vermont Agency of Natural Resources | Department of Environmental Conservation  
Watershed Management Division, Lakes & Ponds Program  
1 National Life Dr, Davis 3  
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522  
802-490-6199 / [Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov](mailto:Misha.Cetner@vermont.gov)  
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**Sent:** Thursday, June 9, 2022 11:26 AM  
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harbor different species of plants and animals from the surrounding land and thus increase biodiversity, sometimes by as much as 50 percent. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1890/04-0668>

The Federally mandated VT Wildlife Action Plan <<https://climatechange.lta.org/wp-content/uploads/cct/2015/03/Vermont-Wildlife-Action-Plan.pdf>> is a comprehensive document that identifies strategies to prevent Vermont's wildlife from dwindling towards a threatened or endangered species status. The single most important strategy is to protect and restore habitat. Regarding wildlife and lakes, the Plan ranks "loss of riparian, shoreline and littoral habitats from land and water development projects and activities" as an issue that needs to be addressed with high priority. Higher even than the ongoing degradation of water quality and algal blooms in our lakes through phosphorous and other pollution. Also highly ranked among problems of lakes is the "loss of migration and travel corridors to and from habitats via alteration and conversion of home range...."

For years the wooded north section of Treasure Island has not been used for recreation and was seldom visited. It bears traces of a former parking area, now overgrown, a dump site, and neglected old trails. But this is about to change. A group of volunteers, the Treasure Island Advisory Committee, have launched an initiative with the help of the Upper Valley Trails Alliance to build new trails there, presumably with the backing of the Town Manager. Formal input has not been sought from the selectboard. Committee member Doug Tift wrote, "I am particularly focusing on establishing nature trails on the underutilized north and south ends of the property." However, areas that humans view as "underutilized" may, in fact, be the opposite from a wildlife perspective.

Trails are generally regarded as a "non-consumptive" recreational use and therefore deemed harmless. It takes a dedicated scientist and wildlife expert like Sue Morse <<https://keepingtrack.org/sue-morse-background>> to uncover scientific literature on trails that shows that, depending on size and location, they may be anything but benign. <[https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/wp-content/uploads/sites/273/2014/08/WildlifeStudy-2\\_BFRT.pdf](https://sudbury.ma.us/conservationcommission/wp-content/uploads/sites/273/2014/08/WildlifeStudy-2_BFRT.pdf)>

When we walk a trail, we don't often encounter wildlife. That is because they sense us coming from a distance and are long gone. The intrusion of humans into formerly secure habitat causes alarm, stress, and fleeing. It makes animals waste precious energy and may contribute to mortality in times of food shortage. Human intrusion sends a signal that the area is unsafe for foraging or breeding.

The impacts of a trail extend far beyond its physical footprint (thousands of feet away for some species.) The effect in an area only 300 ft wide would be significant.

Most people are not aware of the subtleties of wildlife behavior. One study found that a single pedestrian can result in less singing by bird species that are sensitive to disturbance. Song is fundamental to breeding behavior and if enough singing is interrupted, birds don't establish a breeding territory. It is also likely that this undeveloped strip of lakeshore facilitates the movement of animals to and from the adjacent wetland at the north end of the lake. Animal travel corridors are vital for connecting populations to allow out-breeding and genetic diversity and for repopulating vacant habitat. As stated in the Wildlife Action Plan, preventing degradation of these corridors is a high priority.

Of course, the Treasure Island committee is acting with good intentions. They don't mean to harm wildlife or make "recreation vs wildlife" choices. They hope this trail will encourage quiet contemplation of nature, and they aim to raise funds to install a couple of benches. Doug Tift, who is also the abutting landowner and champion of the successful loon nesting raft (link to Sidenote article), believes that because Treasure Island was purchased with 50% federal funds, it obliges Thetford to devote the whole parcel to recreation use. The actual wording of the Land and Water Conservation Act under which the property was acquired is that "*Properties shall be kept reasonably open, accessible, and safe for public use.*"

Lucas Stepno kindly roughed out a trail route, and the committee agreed to some modification to reduce its impact to the lakeshore. They won't run the trail right next to an active beaver lodge at the water's edge, though they will create a spur trail towards it.

Trails in wetlands or their 50-foot buffers are evaluated much in the same way as for Shorelands, and a permit is likely to be required for the establishment of a new trail in wetlands or buffer zone. I've enclosed our trails guidance here: [WTLD\\_TrailGuidance.pdf \(vermont.gov\)](#). Essentially, even a primitive walking trail requiring soil or vegetation removal will trigger a wetland permit. Wetland permits cannot be reviewed and permitted in under a month. Nor can permits be issued for avoidable impacts.

I'm happy to discuss this project more with the Selectboard or the Treasure Island Committee.

Regards,

Julie

Check out our [draft wetland map updates](#). Comments due by July.

## Marion Betts

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, June 09, 2022 7:17 PM  
**To:** Marion Betts  
**Subject:** Re: LACK OF PERMITS Re: WETLANDS and TRAIL BUILDING along undeveloped Lakeshore

Please can this be in the next selectboard packet?  
Thanks,  
Li

On Jun 9, 2022, at 5:33 PM, Lilian Shen <lshen@thetfordvt.gov> wrote:

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<image002.png>

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<image001.jpg>

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**Cc:** Stuart Blood <[ssblood@riseup.net](mailto:ssblood@riseup.net)>  
**Subject:** TRAIL BUILDING along undeveloped Lakeshore

**EXTERNAL SENDER: Do not open attachments or click on links unless you recognize and trust the sender.**

Hello Misha and Oliver,

I have been trying to reach Misha regarding a project to build a pedestrian trail that affects over 1200 ft of undeveloped shoreline on Lake Fairlee. It is an extension of the Treasure Island facility owned by the Town of Thetford. Our Act 250 coordinator Pete Kopsco suggested I contact you.

My question is - does this require a permit under the LakeShore Protection Act?

The Upper Valley Trails Alliance has been called in to build the trail, and their method is to remove the superficial organic material down to mineral soil. I do not know the width of the trail, but it will make a loop that takes in the majority of the area. A second phase is proposed, that will extend the trail into a shrub and cattail wetland at the north end of Lake Fairlee where Blood Brook enters.

I'm sending you an article on this, and a map of the project. This has only last week been presented as a done deal to the Thetford Selectboard, with no investigation of the Shoreland Protection Act or prior discussion at the Selectboard level. Trail building is already scheduled in the early part of July.

Thanks for your attention. I have to travel to the UK for a funeral, but Stuart Blood, CC'd on this email, will be able to follow up with you.

Li Shen  
Thetford Selectboard

#### -----TRAILS AND TRIBULATIONS AT TREASURE ISLAND

Many people are familiar with Thetford's Treasure Island, a recreation area on the shore of Lake Fairlee. The main attraction here is usually the beach and swimming area, along with the swings, play area, and ball courts.

It's less evident that the property continues northward as a long stretch of over 1200 ft of un-exploited lakeshore, backed by woodlands and clearings. It was described by one visiting biologist as something you'd find in the wilds of Maine, rather than on a developed lake in VT. The narrow sliver of land, roughly 300 ft wide (or less in places), is sandwiched between Route 244 and the water.

But the mere fact that it is wild, mostly forested, and bordering a lake makes it ecologically significant. The VT Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Connecticut River Conservancy report that an approximately 300 ft wide waterside buffer may be used by the following: waterfowl nesting, beaver habitat, mink foraging, dabbling ducks, short-distance migratory birds, reptiles, amphibians (herps), and small mammals. Even a 200 ft buffer can support kingfisher, brown thrasher, vireos, woodpeckers, cardinals, herps, and small mammals. (reference 1 at bottom) and <http://crjc.org/buffers/Buffers%20for%20Habitat.pdf> The area is infrequently visited, allowing wildlife to forage, nest, access the water, and, just as importantly, travel along the lakefront, undisturbed by the

human presence. It is a mini-refuge, one of the few remaining on a heavily developed lake.

And indeed, the state recognizes the critical importance of such undisturbed waterside habitat, something that has become increasingly uncommon in Vermont. Shorelands harbor different species of plants and animals from the surrounding land and thus increase biodiversity, sometimes by as much as 50 percent. <https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1890/04-0668>

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<TI TRAILS MAP Plan Dec '21.pdf>

from State of NH pamphlet "Trails for People and Wildlife"

## TRAIL IMPACTS TO WILDLIFE

There are several ways trail use may affect wildlife. The type and severity of impact will depend on the species of animal present, the season or time of day, and where the trail is located.

Disturbance can include one or more of the following types;

### **Physiological**

Changes in an animal's heart rate, temperature, or stress hormones.

### **Behavioral**

Changes in foraging, vigilance or fleeing from perceived predators.

### **Reproductive Success**

Reduction in the number of nests built, eggs laid or young born and successively raised.

### **Predation**

Scaring an adult away leaves young vulnerable to predation. Adults may be preyed on directly. Even though these disturbance events may be short in duration, cumulatively they can have significant long-term consequences. Disturbances are particularly impactful during harsh winter conditions, or the breeding season, when animals are already energetically stressed. Seasonal avoidance of trails during these times is an easy way to help wildlife.

*(note added:- breeding season is typically thought of as spring through end of June for many, but not all species.)*

### **A TRAIL'S "CORRIDOR OF INFLUENCE"**

**OUR PRESENCE CAN BE DETECTED BY WILDLIFE ON EITHER SIDE OF A TRAIL. THIS IS ITS "CORRIDOR OF INFLUENCE."**

To determine the average corridor of influence for our region, New Hampshire Fish and Game staff did an extensive review of the scientific literature. Sixty-seven articles were used to calculate an average flight distance for amphibians and reptiles of 60 feet, to determine that birds become alert 150 feet on either side of a trail on average, and that mammals become alert to human presence at an average of 400 feet.

This 400 foot corridor of influence is equivalent to the length of one and a third football fields, or nine school buses, on either side of a trail. We can use this distance to assess any mapped network of trails and see the associated area of ground over which wildlife are likely impacted.

### **CALCULATING A TRAIL'S IMPACT AREA**

Measuring a 400 foot distance on either side of a mapped trail and multiplying it by the trail length can give us an idea of the area over which wildlife is impacted.

800 ft wide x 12,000 ft long = 9,600,000 square ft  $\div$  43,560 = 220 acres

—OR

800 ft wide x 1,200 ft long (length of shoreline of TI) = 22 acres

**From:** Bayard Mousley <[micknmary1@gmail.com](mailto:micknmary1@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Hiking trails at treasure island

**Date:** June 11, 2022 at 8:30:50 AM EDT

**To:** [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

We agree with Connie Snyder and the many other concerned people that hiking trails are not the way to go at treasure island. Leave this area alone for nature and the beauty of the lake. There are so many wonderful hiking trails already in Thetford and Post Mills, such as the Union Village Dam area, Thetford Academy, Post Mills Floodplain, why would anyone think we need more trails. Lets use this money for the house at Treasure Island and put it to good use.

Mick and Mary Mousley



**From:** E D M Landman <[edmlbookgroup@gmail.com](mailto:edmlbookgroup@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** projected trails at Treasure Island

**Date:** June 11, 2022 at 9:55:37 AM EDT

**To:** [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

It is a failure of judgment to propose trails in one of the very few untouched lakefront areas on Lake Fairlee. There are a number of fine waterside trails in Thetford already, and very little untouched wilderness.

Please reconsider this plan and reject it. You may have noticed that the preponderance of listserv comments have been in favor of keeping the wilderness lakefront area untouched.

Respectfully yours,

E D M Landman MD

Fight all opinions contrary to truth, but let your weapons be patience, sweetness and charity, for violence, besides injuring your own soul, injures the best cause.

St Jan Kanty (St John Cantius) 1390-1473



**From:** Reinhart and Marianna <[mcksonn@gmail.com](mailto:mcksonn@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** Treasure Island natural area  
**Date:** June 12, 2022 at 5:46:03 PM EDT  
**To:** [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

To the Selectboard:

After reviewing the recent proposals for trail development around the north end of Treasure Island in light of the available information about how even innocuous-seeming trails can interfere with wildlife, we are very much in favor of leaving the untouched land around Treasure Island in its natural state. There is no need to develop trails around that area and no shortage of other trails in the area from which to enjoy wildlife. Indeed, one of the most attractive features of Lake Fairlee for kayakers is that corner where wildlife thrive currently. It is much easier to observe respectfully from the water than by tromping through on land.

We urge you to protect and safeguard the natural area that remains in and around Treasure Island (and Lake Fairlee in general) so that the lake can continue to support the variety of healthy wildlife that make the area such a treasure.

Sincerely,  
Marianna McKim and Reinhart Sonnenburg  
1237 Route 244  
603-252-8222

**From:** Reinhart and Marianna <[mcksonn@gmail.com](mailto:mcksonn@gmail.com)>

**Subject:** Treasure Island natural area

**Date:** June 12, 2022 at 5:46:03 PM EDT

**To:** [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

To the Selectboard:

After reviewing the recent proposals for trail development around the north end of Treasure Island in light of the available information about how even innocuous-seeming trails can interfere with wildlife, we are very much in favor of leaving the untouched land around Treasure Island in its natural state. There is no need to develop trails around that area and no shortage of other trails in the area from which to enjoy wildlife. Indeed, one of the most attractive features of Lake Fairlee for kayakers is that corner where wildlife thrive currently. It is much easier to observe respectfully from the water than by tromping through on land.

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Sincerely,  
Marianna McKim and Reinhart Sonnenburg  
1237 Route 244  
603-252-8222

From: <[chugalugskipper@gmail.com](mailto:chugalugskipper@gmail.com)>  
Date: Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 11:57 AM  
Subject: Treasure Island  
To: Thetford Selectboard <[selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)>

If a tree falls in the woods, does it create a sound? I believe the correct answer is no, unless someone is there to hear it. The production of sound is a process, produced and heard. Like catching a pitched ball. Thetford has hundreds of eager "catchers" of information in our elementary school but based on recent listserv posts, we as a town, are not willing to "pitch" the information to even start the learning process. I hope the Selectboard is able to set aside the noise created by a few and realize the majority of town residents want to seize the opportunity to create an outdoor learning laboratory at Treasure Island.

For me, my home does not stop at the four walls of my house, but extends into the natural world around me. The forests, fields, and streams are also my home, where I live and play in harmony with nature, not as a detriment to its existence. It's where I learned about the natural things around us and developed a healthy respect for the conservation of our resources.

For some, conservation means eliminating all human activity. Lock up the land, restrict access, and let the wildlife be wild. If any human interference could cause the elimination of a species than maybe that's the best thing to do, but that is not the case here. We are talking about a small parcel of land that is already void of any suggested buffer zones because there are motorboats and water skiers on one side and a state highway on the other. The addition of a simple walking path with an occasional kiosk to teach our children about what is living amongst us will do no more harm to the wildlife's existence than is already put upon them from the existing intrusions on the buffer zone. In fact, that is what makes this an ideal place for such an endeavor, a path would do no more harm than already exists.

A deeper dive into nature, that can only come from hands on learning, will only bolster a child's desire to conserve. Because I "live" outside the four walls of my house, I recently witnessed a natural event that occurs billions of times every Spring but looked like a scene from a sci-fi movie. A nymph with an oval shaped abdomen crawled from the water and attached itself to the vertical side of a rock. The exoskeleton split down the back and a gooey greenish blob emerged. Eventually with the help of the sun and a breeze, wings emerged, dried, and a new dragonfly flew away. That same event happens at Treasure Island but how many of you have seen it?

Did you know that beavers have a built in "comb" attached to a rear toenail that is used to groom themselves in conjunction with oil from the castors? Did you know that beaver castor oil is used in the manufacture of perfume and also used as a flavoring in foods like gum and pudding? My grandchildren will attest to the fact that beaver makes a delicious stew! And yes, I realize that means that the life of the beaver was given, but in my world, prudent use of our natural resources leads to that better

understanding of the world around us and the desire for overall conservation. Eliminating the opportunity to interact with nature by restricting all access will teach our children nothing.

Please join me in encouraging the Selectboard to grasp this opportunity for our children and grandchildren by moving ahead for plans to better utilize the Treasure Island resource.

Bill Huff

VT House of Representative Candidate

From: **AJ Kemon** <[ajkemon@comcast.net](mailto:ajkemon@comcast.net)>  
Date: Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 1:37 PM  
Subject: Thank you  
To: <[mb.gravityhill@gmail.com](mailto:mb.gravityhill@gmail.com)>

Hi Mary/  
Thanks for your support!

Who knew a simple hiking trail would cause so much controversy!!!

Best,  
AJ Kemon

## Marion Betts

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**From:** russbev5@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Monday, June 13, 2022 5:20 PM  
**To:** selectboard@thetford; sba@thetfordvt.gov  
**Subject:** Treasure Island

I have tried to email this to listserve several times with no success. Please consider this viewpoint and forgive my lack of technology skills.

I was President of the "Young Mothers Club" in Thetford when Thetford purchased what is now Treasure Island in the early 1970s. My father-in-law, Robert Vaughan and the other selectmen at the time, George Stowell and Richard Hauger (I believe) asked me to represent the young families to help create a recreation and swimming area when the old Camp Beenadeewin (sp) came up for sale. This purchase went through and we had a contest to name our new recreation area and Treasure Island became a reality. Many people worked very hard to clear out old cabins and dead trees that were unsafe and to build up our lovely beach area. Picnic tables were made and donated, live in care takers were hired to run and maintain the buildings and grounds. We hired a lifeguard and swimming lessons were started for children and adults.

Many things have changed at Treasure Island since then but PLEASE do not change the wetlands with walking paths. Lets enjoy it from the lakeside in a canoe or rowboat.

Thank you,  
Bev Vaughan

## Marion Betts

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**From:** Lilian Shen <lilian.shen.vt@gmail.com> on behalf of Lilian Shen  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 15, 2022 12:02 PM  
**To:** Marion Betts  
**Subject:** Another email Fwd: Treasure Island

For the packet I guess!

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Nancy Marth <[marthnj@gmail.com](mailto:marthnj@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** **Treasure Island**  
**Date:** June 13, 2022 at 6:44:02 PM EDT  
**To:** [selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)

Please keep the wetlands area of Treasure Island as is without development or trails.  
Thank you,  
Nancy Marth  
East Thetford, VT

Sent from Nan's iPhone  
Please excuse typos

From: **mary Bryant** <[mb.gravityhill@gmail.com](mailto:mb.gravityhill@gmail.com)>

Date: Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 7:08 AM

Subject: Re: T I comments

To: Matt Senger <[ndc20003@yahoo.com](mailto:ndc20003@yahoo.com)>

Hi Matt,

Thanks for your comments. In these days of one sided sources of one point of view I am striving to change that in our town. This is why I have invited people to come and have a discussion with listening and respect. I hope you can come to Monday's Selectboard meeting to support our wonderful volunteers. That is the other reason I wrote it, to support our volunteer efforts.

Kind regards,

Mary

On Wed, Jun 15, 2022 at 6:02 AM Matt Senger <[ndc20003@yahoo.com](mailto:ndc20003@yahoo.com)> wrote:

Thank you so much for your helpful post, Mary. I can only wish that it had come earlier in this barrage of well meaning but I'll or only partly informed storm. My having said that in no way implies any criticism. Yours is the first to shed real light on the issue. Having been on the receiving end of a similar storm back in 2019, I can only imagine how frustrated those must have been who had spent so much hard work on this matter. Hopefully the town will find a way forward.

Matt Senger

Sent from my iPad



From: <[chugalugskipper@gmail.com](mailto:chugalugskipper@gmail.com)>

Date: Mon, Jun 20, 2022 at 6:25 AM

Subject: SB

To: Thetford Selectboard <[selectboard@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:selectboard@thetfordvt.gov)>, Town Manager  
<[townmanager@thetfordvt.gov](mailto:townmanager@thetfordvt.gov)>

I wanted to thank the majority of the Selectboard for their discretion in the matter of the Treasure Island path and other concerns. Most of you refrain from publicly taking sides to at least give the impression of impartiality, an admirable quality in town leadership as each should strive to listen to all taxpayers. It is not at all appropriate that some members publicly campaign for their ideology using the listserv and I think its' use to "debate" with town residents approaches being unethical. Counting list serve posts to keep score is certainly not "democracy in action" as some have suggested and I appreciate your efforts to investigate, sort facts from fiction, deliberate, and decide in a fair and equitable manner.

My only other comment on the matter is, of those posting on the listserv, the median age is probably well into the 60's and the majority don't have children or grandchildren in the area. It stands to reason those with nothing to gain would likely be opposed. With hundreds of school age children in Thetford and nearly 40 years of residency, I stand by my assertion that the majority of town residents would like to have an educational component available at TI, regardless of the silence of those children's parents.

Respectfully,

Bill Huff

Dear Selectboard and Bryan,  
re:Treasure Island Proposed Pathway

Please leave the wetlands as is for the wildlife creatures who need their natural habitat without human interference.

Thank you to the Treasure Island Advisory Committee for your time.

Sincerely,  
Sherry Merrick

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[Sherry Merrick](#)  
[Post Mills](#)  
[802-333-9004](#)