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**ITEM #4**

May 13, 2021

Dawn Ryan  
74 Stagecoach Rd.  
Wilton, NH

RE: Neighbors' Memories Regarding the Existing Bridge (pre-1968) in the Access Easement (1996)

Dear Dawn:

I met with you and your neighbors, Rachel and Bart Hunter, on May 4, 2021, to walk along the access easement connecting the front of your lot with the east, back part of your lot. The access easement is the farm road pathway to reach the east portion of your lot, as the east portion of your lot lacks road frontage.

Rachel Hunter lived opposite your house in the 1950's and 1960's, and is familiar with the existing bridge in the access easement, which she crossed or spent time on, nearly daily while growing up. Bart Hunter became familiar with the bridge starting in 1968. Rachel and Bart indicated that the existing bridge framing is the same bridge framing that was present when they first met, in 1968, in the Stagecoach Rd. neighborhood. Rachel recalled that the bridge timbers were creosoted before installation. That preservation treatment of the existing bridge timbers allowed the timbers to remain to the present.

Per Rachel, the mid-twentieth century farm use of the existing bridge included farm tractors and hay wagons. The bridge provided access to farm fields, east of the stream crossing, that had been used for the production of rye. Subsequently, the fields were farmed for hay production. Sheep were part of the farm operation during Rachel's youth. The bridge functioned as a vital part of the farming operation, as well as for recreational access by the people who lived in the neighborhood.

Bart recalled that the low area of the west approach to the bridge had occasionally flooded, without flood impact to the bridge. Rachel and Bart's recollections did not include a time frame for the date of construction of the existing wood framing of the bridge.

The existing stone abutments of the existing bridge pre-date the construction of the existing bridge superstructure. The abutments are sufficient for a bridge significantly wider than the existing bridge.

Sincerely,



Benjamin E. Tirey, P.E.