

Freedom Planning Board and Conservation Commission
Creates a Fundraising Appeal to
Protect Ossipee Lake's Water Quality!

The Ossipee Planning board has approved the doubling of the Westward Shores Campground from 258 to 519 camp sites although the entire property is in the 100-year flood plain. Most campsites in the existing development are recreational vehicles with attached rooms, porches, and sheds. They are not anchored to the ground and could dislodge in flood water and cause damage to property and water quality downstream. The approval of the expansion will create more of the same. The evacuation plan in the event of a flood leaves it up to the owners to remove their vehicles and property—but the owner could be hours away!

We, Freedom, are not opposed to all development. And we know we can't stop flooding in the floodplain around Ossipee Lake. Our goal is to ensure the maximum protection to lake water quality and to the downstream property owners that the Ossipee zoning ordinance and FEMA regulations require.

Ossipee's zoning ordinance says that recreational vehicles in the floodplain should be on a foundation and anchored, but the planning board has not enforced this provision. Freedom and Effingham have appealed the decision to both the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Adjustment, but both boards have denied our appeals. The next step is superior court. This will be very costly. Can you help?

We have \$8,500 in pledges--\$6,000 which we receive only if we can match them with other donations. Our goal is \$17,500 and we will need it all if the court case drags on—as it might.

Please make a tax-deductible donation to the Ossipee Lake Protection Fund, which will be held by the Freedom Conservation Commission in a special account (Ossipee Lake Protection Fund) to be used only for litigation in this case. Make your check payable to the Town of Freedom and write Ossipee Lake Protection Fund in the Memo line on the bottom left of your check. Mail it to PO Box 227, Freedom, NH 03836.

Thank you!

PS. While this gives the basic facts, to keep this short, we have left out some details you may want to know. If you have any questions call Anne Cunningham (603-539-4924) or Paul Elie (603-651-1096).

PPS. If you are wondering, here's how the donation process will work:

- All donors will receive a thank you letter at the time of their donation, reaffirming that their donation is tax-deductible and stating that all donations will be used to pay attorney fees as bills are received in the town office.
- Donors will receive a letter in January informing them of the 2016 tax-deductible donation. Payments will be prorated based on each donor's share of total payments from the fund.
- If this case goes into 2017 (which is quite possible), donors will receive another letter informing them of their tax-deductible donations in 2017 that were used to pay legal fees.
- If there are funds left over, donors will be informed of the amount and monies will be returned to them if they wish.

Please pass this on to anyone else who might be interested in this issue.