



**LAKE • GEORGE
WATERKEEPER®**

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July 10, 2009

Mr. Greg Smith, Chairman
Town of Bolton Zoning Board of Appeals
4949 Lakeshore Drive
Bolton Landing, NY 12814

**Re: Herrmans (186.10-1-14)
V09-18**

Dear Mr. Smith and Members of the Board,

The Lake George Waterkeeper has reviewed the submission for the above referenced variance and would like to offer the following comments regarding the application:

1. The variance request to construct a retaining wall on the south side of the property line appears to be required to maintain the elevation created after constructing the single family dwelling (SFD).

The intent to lessen the impact to the stream by adding a structure to hold the land back is self created and may be the only alternative to prevent erosion impacting the stream. Limestone may not be a good selection to build a retaining wall, as calcium, which feeds Zebra mussels, may leach from this substrate.

2. Adding a berm to the shoreline and a vegetative buffer will be a good addition to this property.

The proposed buffer vegetation needs to be more substantial than what is presented in the application. As with a natural shoreline, varied height vegetation (with a tree canopy, shrubs, understory and groundcover) should be required to infiltrate and treat stormwater. The proposed plantings for the shoreline are beautiful perennial flowers, but not anything of substantial height to lessen the impact on the land of heavy precipitation in order to reduce erosion and to make uncomfortable the geese that have found this applicant's lawn a welcomed habitat. Vegetation that hides a goose predator is needed (no geese graze are on the vegetated property to the south).

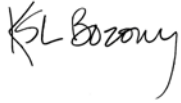


3. A Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), Army Corp of Engineers and Adirondack Park Agency approval and permits are required for alteration of the shoreline, and the proposed dredging.

The APA, when reviewing applications, is requiring that the property owner mitigate and remove the cause for the perceived need to dredge (a mucky lake bottom that is created from excessive algae and aquatic plants, dying and piling up as accumulating organic matter). Reducing nutrients entering the lake by planting a shoreline buffer and eliminating use of fertilizers and pesticides will stop this process. In addition using native species on the property means that, after established, no fertilizers and pesticides, or watering will be required. Fertilizer and pesticide use restrictions to reduce the massive algae blooms in Lake George should be a condition made by the Town of Bolton.

Thank you for reviewing this variance and understanding the impact of the algae bloom found in the water off this property. Excessive nutrients are feeding the algae and plants in the bay. The Lake George Waterkeeper looks forward to working with the Town of Bolton in defending the natural resources of Lake George and its watershed.

Sincerely,



Kathleen S Lindberg Bozony
Natural Resource Specialist / Lake George Waterkeeper

cc: Kathy Simmes, Supervisor
Brian Grisi, Adirondack Park Agency
Michael White, Lake George Park Commission