Date: 25 August 2025

Dear Mayor and Town Council,

The Lake Committee is submitting this letter to express a position that the committee has held for the past three years regarding the proposed restoration of Maple Spring.

The Lake Committee, since September 2023 and every year since, has agreed that we do not want any change to the lake fence on the side nearest Maple Spring (southern and western portion of the fence).

For decades, unauthorized incursions into the Maple Lake property, whether by cutting the fence or by jumping over the fence, have occurred on the side opposite Maple Spring.

Any change to the fence, and certainly putting a path from Maple Spring that goes to a proposed gate on the lake fence, will create an attractive nuisance that encourages unauthorized entry into the Maple Lake property. The history of unauthorized entry into the Maple Lake property indicates that climbing a gate is the preferred (easiest) way to gain access. If people gain access to Maple Lake without climbing the existing gate, they usually cut a hole in the fence. We do not want either cutting or climbing to occur on the existing fence near the spring.

The Lake Committee believes that the use of the now existing trail through the woods directly to Maple Spring is the best option. With this trail, that starts from the road between the West Woods parking lot and the Maple Lake bridge/gate, Town residents can now easily visit the dilapidated condition of Maple Spring and witness, if approved by the Council, the restoration of the spring. This trail through the woods does not require Town residents to deal with combination locks into or out of the lake property. Combination locks require maintenance. In 2025, the combination lock to enter Maple Lake required one change of the combination and three changes of the physical lock due to malfunctions.

If Maple Spring is left un-fenced, as Whetstone Spring is un-fenced, with a trail that allows easy access, it is possible the spring could become a destination that is more often visited and therefore regularly monitored and enjoyed by Town residents. It is beneficial for the Town to have more Town residents visiting and observing **all parts** of the West Woods, during all seasons, including the lake, the trails, Whetstone Spring, and Maple Spring. We ask the Council to seriously consider the goals and objective of restoring Maple Spring, especially if there is an objection to a trail that allows easy walking access but instead relies on a path going to or through the lake fence thereby causing significant increased health and safety risks at Maple Lake.

Sincerely yours,

The Lake Committee (minus Warren Winter)