

Fairlee, Vermont 05045
January 28, 1980

To the Selectmen of the Town of Fairlee

Gentlemen:

This communication is addressed to you by the N.C.H.S. (BOR) committee, which was continued in existence with your approval as set forth in a letter written by the clerk of your board for you, under date of March 19, 1979. Now this committee has hurriedly met to consider your proposal informally relayed to this committee, relating to the failure to this date to complete the project which was duly warned and voted at the annual town meeting in March of 1979, the favorable action being by a vote of almost two to one, by ballot.

FIRST: Will you kindly review the language of that vote passed in 1979, a copy of which is attached hereto? It is clear that the Town voted by a vote of 92 to 53 to accept the conveyance of the 770.6 acres from the Langes, to be used as open land recreational area at a price of \$158,500--20% of which would be a gift from the Langes, and the balance would be paid from funds made available from Federal and State grants BUT--"Provided said premises are determined to be free and clear of all encumbrances, and that the same comply with all Federal and State of Vermont regulations which must be complied with to obtain the foregoing financing."

yes

SECOND: Will you kindly forthwith set forth in writing for this committee whether the land is in the opinion of your counsel free and clear of all encumbrances, and if not, in what respects, if any, it does not comply with all requirements of Federal and State of Vermont regulations?

yes

THIRD: Your informal proposal relayed to this committee is that you include in the warning for the 1980 annual town meeting a recommendation that the Town not effectually rescind the vote taken at the 1979 annual town meeting, and to carry out the project without taking any Federal or State grants money, but rather by having the Town borrow the needed funds to purchase the property at the price stated. And you have gone so far as to investigate what the interest rate might be on bonds of the Town of Fairlee, which of course would include, in addition to seven or eight percent interest, payments of principal over a period of years as the bonds matured--all this to require added tax monies.

This committee wonders if this proposal may have the effect of killing rather than completing the project which the Town has voted, and this committee unanimously rejects any such proposal which is at variance with the expressed mandate of the voters, as evidenced by their vote at the annual town meeting in 1979.

Though not called upon since the town meeting in March of 1979, this committee has at all times stood ready and available to be of assistance in the implementation of the vote there taken-- and be it said it still stands ready to so assist. We feel certain that all of us can agree that there is no veto power over the action of the voters, and that when a mandate has been issued it must be carried out, whether or not it is in accordance with the opinions of those who must implement it.

Respectfully submitted

Gordon W. Kee

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Chairman, H.C.R.S. Committee