



Haverhill

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Michael Dempsey
Chairman
Town of Groveland Conservation Commission
201 Washington Street
Groveland, MA 01834

Dear Mr. Dempsey:

I am writing this letter because it has been brought to my attention that the Town of Groveland is considering allowing hibachi grills to be placed in the wooded area near the shore of Johnsons Pond off Center Street across from the bus turn-around.

Johnsons Pond is classified as a Class A public drinking water supply for the City of Haverhill in 314 CMR 4.00 and as the public water supplier Haverhill has some responsibility under 310 CMR 22.20B for the protection of its supplies regardless of whether or not the supply is active or not.

If hibachi grills are allowed, I am concerned with the risk of fire and it impacts to Johnsons Pond. Not long ago there was a multi-alarm fire in a wooded area approximately ¼-mile away. The risk of fire is especially high during hot, dry weather when the hibachi grills would likely be used the most. In the City of Haverhill, fires are prohibited in conservations areas around the drinking water supplies unless given written permission by a Conservation Officer.

Our intent is to have appropriate protective measures for recreation and other activities on Johnsons Pond to protect the environment and public health we believe a cooperative effort to preserve and protect Johnsons Ponds is in the best interest of both Groveland and Haverhill as Johnsons Pond is a valuable natural resource for both communities.

Please contact me at (978) 374-2382 or email rward@haverhillwater.com if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Ward
Deputy DPW Director