Leslie Welts
Attorney, watershed Management Division
Vermont Dept. of Environmental Conservation
1 National Life Drive, Main 2
Montpelier, VT 05620-3522

Dear Leslie,
This is a response to the additional points you requested .

1.Social impacts of making Wolcott Pond a quiet pond.

There will be benefits to quiet boaters including fishermen, kayakers, canoers, electric boat users as well as swimmers. A quiet pond allows them to enjoy the restorative quiet and conduct their activities without the disruption of noisy internal combustion engines, without the fear of being run down, without waves from the wake of boats that can easily go over the speed limit, and without gas fumes. There are groups of Kayakers who come to the Pond on a regular rotation for evening boat rides to enjoy the quiet, the color of the evening, and the solitude that is hard to come by in our mechanized world.

There are benefits to the camp owners and their various guests who use the primitive camps and enjoy the peace of a quiet lake. Camp owners often swim long distances into the pond and having a quiet pond will eliminate large fast moving boats that may not see the swimmers.

There are no "enterprises" on Wolcott Pond if you mean business enterprises. There are no local businesses that would be negatively impacted. There is a local guide from Stowe who frequently brings customers with children (perhaps also with adults) to learn to fish on the Pond.
Elimination of internal combustion engines would be a benefit to his business as well, as they fish from the public access and would not have to worry about disruption or released gasoline from these boats.
The minimal change in use could have a positive effect on the businesses selling and renting canoes and kayaks and would not likely affect suppliers of fishing tackle and gear. Note that quite a few fishermen fish from canoes and some from kayaks; others use electric motors.

The only government entities that would be affected would be those who monitor and enforce regulations for use of the pond. The fish and game warden is occasionally out on the pond using an electric motor. Should there be an

emergency where an internal combustion engine is required by a law officer, this could be an exception to the rule prohibiting use of internal combustion engines.

2. Normal uses (e.g., swimming, fishing, etc) that would be affected. All the quiet uses including swimming, fishing, paddling, birdwatching would be enhanced by lack of disturbance both of wildlife and of these users quiet enjoyment. See response to question one.

3 and 4. Current use conflicts on Wolcott Pond and efforts to deal with them.

The conflicts with internal combustion engines are that when they are used they are usually used in violation of the 5MPH speed limit. When we have been present to observe these we have told the violator that there is a 5 mph speed limit. On at least 2 occasions, the offender claimed that they'd often used WP and that there was not a 5 mph speed limit. Then the boater sped off to the public landing, read the sign and did not return, or at least not over the speed limit. Offenders may often be out of earshot (esp. over noise of their boats) of those of us on land. Often they only exceed the speed limit en route to a spot to quietly fish and then again when they leave, but this sporadic use of higher speed is disruptive to all quiet users and unsafe for swimmers. We have reported speeders to the Fish and Game Warden but the pond is so small and enforcement so distant that it is unlikely that an officer could appear. We do have some photos and video footage of violators and occasionally are able to obtain a license number of their vehicles at the public landing, but have not pursued action against individuals. The problem is NOT with a particular or even a few specific individuals but rather with those who occasionally use the pond thinking it may be good for tubing (with high speed) and those who are simply lazy about paddling to a fishing spot or confining their use to an electric engine.
The other potential conflict lies with the introduction of alien species of plant life such as Asian milfoil. So far, Wolcott Pond is free of invaders. Large boats with big engines are more apt to import the plants than kayaks or canoes.
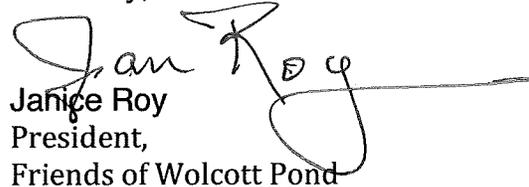
5. Notice to President of lake or property owners association, Department of Public Safety, c/o the State Boating Law Administrator.
There is NO lake or property owners association for Wolcott Pond. The majority of private landowners around Wolcott Pond are members of Friends of Wolcott Pond who submitted this petition and they are fully informed and are signatories of the petition. Friends of Wolcott Pond has contacted other land owners on the Pond who are not members to invite them to sign the petition. A significant part of the shoreline is state owned.

We do not see anything in the rules or regulations requiring Petitioner to serve notice on other interested parties, but we have notified the owners of all camps on the pond to the extent that we were able to obtain addresses.

I hope this answers your questions. I will be glad to obtain additional information for your consideration. We look forward to continuing this process to successful completion.

Sincerely,

Janice Roy
President,
Friends of Wolcott Pond
242 Keeler Pond Rd.
Wolcott, VT. 05680

Landowners contacted by letter regarding the Wolcott Pond Petition

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David Magoon
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Jeff Hill
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