



Lost pond land access for hunting and recreation

From Devin Lumbra <dev.lumbra@gmail.com>

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To GeorgiaConservationCommission@gmail.com <GeorgiaConservationCommission@gmail.com>; Georgia Town Administrator <administrator@townofgeorgia.com>; Georgia_Clerk@comcast.net <Georgia_Clerk@comcast.net>; Georgia Town Clerk <townclerk@townofgeorgia.com>

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Town of Georgia Selectboard
Town of Georgia
P.O. Box 27
Georgia, VT 05468

Dear Members of the Selectboard,

I am writing to respectfully recommend that the Town of Georgia consider the use of eminent domain to secure legal public access to the Lost Pond parcel currently owned by the town.

As it stands, this parcel is maintained using taxpayer funds, yet access to it is effectively restricted. At present, only a limited number of adjacent private landowners are able to reach the property, leaving the broader public—who collectively fund its upkeep—without any practical or lawful means of enjoying it. This arrangement raises concerns about fairness, transparency, and the appropriate use of municipal resources.

Public lands should serve the public. When a town-owned property cannot be accessed by its residents, it undermines the very purpose of public ownership. Establishing a clearly defined and legally protected access point would ensure that all taxpayers benefit equally from this shared asset.

While I understand that the use of eminent domain is a serious and sometimes controversial measure, it is also a lawful and appropriate tool when used to advance clear public interests—particularly in cases where no reasonable alternatives exist. In this situation, acquiring a narrow access corridor or right-of-way could resolve the issue in a balanced and equitable manner, while minimizing impact on surrounding landowners.

I encourage the Selectboard to evaluate this matter carefully, including potential routes for access, costs, and community input. Ensuring fair access to town-owned land would reflect a strong commitment to stewardship, accountability, and the shared interests of Georgia's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your service to the community and your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
[Devin Lumbrá]