

White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

November 24, 1983

Miss Alice Main
5100 Sharon Road
Charlotte, N. C. 28210

Dear Alice,

I am writing you now at the request of the Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association.

They asked me first to offer their recognition as individuals and as a group of your deep and long-lasting investment in maintaining the lovely wildness of the land that borders the Pond. Within your stewardship the lake has been a magically lovely place for those of us who have lived near or around the Pond. We are indebted to you for the wisdom of your guardianship of the lake and land and for generosity in keeping open access to the lake for use of summer neighbors and local people.

They asked me also to place before you a proposal that might help to restrain unwise land developments around White Oak Pond and its watershed.

Let me explain first the background in our thinking and our discussion of the proposal we wish to set before you:

As you know, the proposed sale of Camilla Kemple's land has aroused some concern among neighbors: first, her land abuts Lamb Swamp. Depending on the buyer's intent - whether to subdivide the land for various uses, for example - the major wetland in the area is vulnerable.

In our concern, during the past year several of us have begun to investigate the possibility that one or more of the conservation groups (Audubon Society, Conservancy Fund, or others) might be willing to participate in a fund to buy Camilla's land to be kept as wild land - a kind of impossible dream, but worth trying.

In this pursuit Tink Taylor suggested we contact a man named John Ripley Forbes who is Director of a group called Lakes Region Conservancy Trust. Tink noted that Mr. Forbes and his associates have, in the past, raised large sums to protect land in the area against development.

We invited Mr. Forbes to visit the Pond one day late in September. He came with several of his associates. Among the group we met Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kirkwood; Grace Kirkwood is Trustee in charge of properties. The Kirkwoods said they remember you and Charles warmly from Winchester where they formerly lived; they are now retired to North Sandwich.

Bill took some of the group across the lake in our boat; Paul Whitman drove a few of us along Camilla's Right of Way to her house where we reviewed matters of boundaries, abutters, the wetlands and so on.

Mr. Forbes told us that his group cannot fund any land at present: recently they acquired with funds an island in Winnebago threatened by a developer and thus they have no resources now for helping purchase land.

However, Mr. Forbes and his associates found the Pond an impressively lovely place and natural resource and strongly urged us to take some steps toward conserving the land now, with a possible view to seeking funds in future.

He proposed that we ask Camilla to give to his Trust the land that abuts the Lamb Swamp and which is under water. Such a gift would protect the Swamp against encroachment on that boundary as well as serving to demonstrate interest of Camilla in conservation of the wetlands.

Mr. Forbes urged us also to approach other neighboring landowners in this regard.

After careful consideration of Mr. Forbes' suggestion, the WOPWA Board unanimously voted that a letter be sent you written by me. They ask you to consider giving to the Lakes Region Conservancy Trust (or other Conservation agency) a piece of your land - preferably wetland as a testimony of interest in preserving wetlands and shores of the Pond. It was felt that this gift could generate gifts of land or money from other persons in the lakes region, and possibly offer us a basis on which to solicit funds for conservation land.

The Board recognized, also, that you will probably want to consult Charles about such a proposal; we are therefore sending a copy of this letter to him.

We hope that, whatever you and Charles may decide in this regard, you will be aware that our efforts to preserve

the unique loveliness of the Pond for other generations, and recognition of your efforts in that regard, have motivated our discussion and this approach to you. At another time we might have been able to 'chip in' as a group and purchase Camilla's land. Now, as you know, such purchase is beyond our combined means.

We all hope that you have maintained your physical gains of last summer, and send warm greetings with hope to see you in Spring.

Cordially,



Mary Perry, for the Board

Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association

1983

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Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

November 20, 1983

Dr. Camilla Kemple
20 West 86 Street
New York, N. Y. 10024

Dear Camilla,

I have been asked to write you in behalf of the Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association. The Board met on October 8th; as you see by the names recorded below, the group now numbers 13 with 4 new members elected at the Annual Meeting of September 2nd.

The Board members have been informed of your decision to sell your land and all are unhappy to lose neighbors who have been deeply invested in WOPWA and in maintaining the wild loveliness of the Pond and its watershed.

First, then, let me give you the background events which are a context for the proposal we now put before you:

Previous to the Board meeting, having talked with several members, I contacted a man named John Ripley Forbes; Tink Taylor had told me of Mr. Forbes' longtime interest and work in raising funds for conservation land trusts. His organization is known as Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Mr. Forbes and several of his executive staff visited the Pond with us in late September; Bill took them by boat to your shore and Paul Whitman was helpful in indicating boundaries, etc.

Because of recent commitments of funds, the land trust organization cannot at this time proffer funds to purchase more conservation property; nor did they feel that their organization could take the initiative in raising funds for such purchase.

Mr. Forbes did, however, recognize the unique loveliness of your land and shore and strongly urged that we take some steps to initiate a policy of conservation that could grow with cooperation of landowners on or around the Pond.

As you know, Camilla, your land and some of your

neighbors' lands abut Lamb Swamp, the prime wetland in this area for the breeding and protection of wild life. You don't need any introduction to the Swamp nor a homily on its value in the ecology as well as the beauty of the Pond. The preservation of the Swamp and its protection would be an important objective in any fund-raising effort.

From Mr. Forbes' broad experience in fund-raising for such conservation lands he urged that we write you to present a suggestion as follows:

Would you consider giving to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust that land owned by you which is under water and bordering the Swamp? Such a gift could offer some tax advantage upon sale of the land and would not substantially alter or limit the value of that land which is usable. Essentially, the gift would help protect the major wetland in our area. Mr. Forbes offered to pay for the surveying of any wetlands given to the trust. Mr. Forbes suggested, also, that we approach other neighbors with a similar proposal.

With this in mind the Board the Board directed me to write Miss Alice Main also to convey the suggestion for a gift of a piece of her land to the conservation trust.

In the experience of Mr. Forbes and his colleagues, such land gifts not only act to guard the wetlands but also, when the gifts are made known and are recognized by others in the community who are conservation-minded, such gifts often stimulate wider interests in donations of money that might fund purchase of land in the area.

We write in the hope that you will see this letter as an expression of the deep appreciation of the Pond and its environs that we share with you and Sam.

We realize, too, that you wish to sell as soon as you can and want to make clear that the suggestion offered for your consideration is not a request to delay or limit such effort by you or your Real Estate Agent.

We are grateful for your consideration of this proposal. I'll enclose a self-addressed envelope so that you can write me when you feel you have given due consideration to the matter. If you wish to comment on factors that we have not taken into account - won't you let us know. Mr. Forbes lives in Atlanta but has an office in Connecticut as well as in Meredith, N. H., and is happy to talk with you if this would seem helpful.

Very sincerely,

Mary H. Perry

Mary Perry for the Board