

From: [Lynn Richardson](#)

To: [Joan](#) ; [xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](#)

Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2011 11:06 AM

Subject: FoCH proposed contributions

Dear Roberta & Joan - would either of you be able to copy this letter to the other board members? I have an address for Dan & Brent - but they sometimes bounce (altho I will try). I am happy to answer any questions by email. I am on vacation this week so I am also available to answer questions before/during/ after tomorrow's meeting if anyone would be interested. - Lynn

To the GSNEO board

The Friends of Crowell Hilaka requests permission to begin covering the costs of some repairs / improvements at camp.

We understand that permitting such repairs does not imply a committment on the part of GSNEO to keeping the camp.

In discussions of what would be of most value to the girls now and / what would best protect the interests of the council, we have chosen the following projects:

1. Whatever repairs needed to make Gund Hall (excluding the kitchen) safe and accessible for girl programming

a protected, central area that is not doubling as troop rental space is needed. As GSNEO's most popular camp (per the 2009- 2010 survey) cabins are often booked when programs are scheduled. A large, roofed area will enhance the girls' experince - especially during inclement weather. We would like to be able to have Gund ready and available for summer camping.

2. Professional engineering assement & reccomendations to ensure safety of the lower dam.

the lower dam / mill is the feature that is farthest downstream of all camp structures. If an emergency situation arises from any problem with the dam, it is likely that downstream damage or injury will occur along Rt 303 or at St Bernard Country Club before anyone in the camp is aware of a problem. The safety of the community is of premium importance for humanitarian reasons & to protect the interests of the council. Although FoCH cannot afford full scale repairs, we can afford expert advice. According to the manual of dam safety [produced jointly by the Committee on the Safety of Existing Dams, Water Science and Technology Board, Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems, National Research Council] even incremental improvements can vastly effect enhancement of dam safety. They are worth making.

3. Patching of breaches in the perimeter fence

Safety of the girls is of utmost importance. Parents need to know their daughters are in a protected envornment; one that is difficult for intruders to access or that girls could wander out of. The fence is completely intact adjacent in the most heavily used areas of camp, but there are a few weak areas where trees have fallen across the east boundary. A manager at Great Lakes Fence company has agreed to provide instruction & loan us the tools for re-weaving the chain link patches if we purchase fencing materials from them. There is one section along the Oviatt Rd hill that would be too dangerous for volunteers. We would need to hire a professional tree-cutting service to remove a tree trunk that has taken down the fence over a ravine, and have professionals re-install the fence section.

4. Improvement of Creek Crossings

Crowell Hilaka is blessed with many natural springs. These contribute greatly to girls' understanding of geologic forces & diversity of environmental conditions. Yet the many streams pose a challenge where they cross the trails. In some cases, girls and adults with impaired mobility may be unable to access distal sections of popular trails. Each trail with a creek crossing poses a unique engineering challenge. Therefore, each must be assessed on a case by case basis. Some situations may call for a simple plank bridge. Others, a culvert & fill. Still others may require different styles of bridges.

The most exciting element to these projects is the opportunity to involve the girls in the engineering & construction of the bridges. Among FoCH membership includes engineering and architectural experience. They are already working on a proposal for just such a program. We also have ties with Hard Hatted Women which gives us additional resources of materials, expertise, & non-traditional female role-modeling. This has the potential to be a show case program as well as a property improvement project.

We understand that GSNEO must approve every aspect of any work that is done and approve of all contractors. We understand that there are stringent regulations for construction work in GS campgrounds. We look forward to working in cooperation with GSNEO & in compliance with all necessary regulations in order to make this the best possible council for all girls.

I am available on March 2 to answer any questions about the proposed projects

Lynn Richardson, Friends of Crowell Hilaka