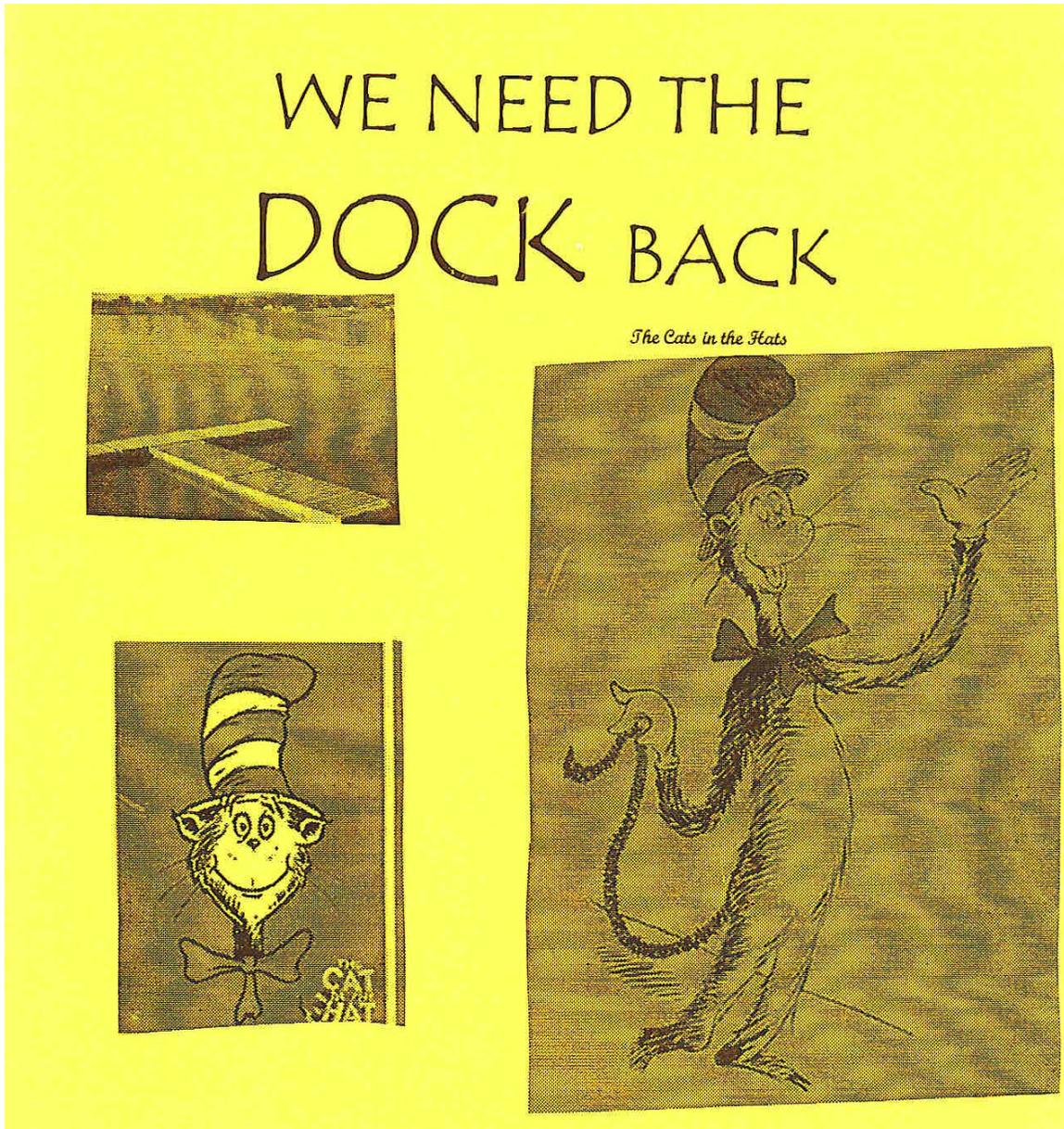


## Appendix 4 Selected Community Input

Included here are examples of community views on waterfront issues in Wilmington, including letters, notes from meetings, and a flyer created by a group of community youth. See web site for more complete information.



**February 1, 2006**

**LWRP**

**Town of Wilmington**

I am a 46-year-old native of Wilmington. I have water skied on the river, jumped off the bridge to swim, even been over the dam in a cardboard box. The river is very important to me, even though I may not want to try the box again. Let me say that the AuSable River along with Whiteface Mountain is in my eyes the crown jewels of the Adirondacks. You are hard pressed to find a more picturesque place. Wilmington is a charming peaceful town and should be marketed that way with the natural beauty and what it has to offer.

For years I have been razzed about being from Wilmington. I love Wilmington for what it is, the peace and quiet, not having one person on top of another. I don't want to see Wilmington become another Lake Placid. I would like it to be unique, not the same as every other town. Every other Town does not have the AuSable River and Whiteface Mountain.

I think it is very important to find a balance, something that is good for the businesses and also good for the people that live here. This should be able to be done, as when I was a kid growing up there were a lot more Motels than there are now and they were full every night of the week in the summer. I don't remember life being so bad then, so I know the balance is achievable.

I think that the river is a great asset to the town and just having it there is very important to me. Just about all the points brought at the meeting up are very good, with the most important item being the river filling in. I think dredging should be done in an environmentally friendly way, however funding for this is the key issue, as the local tax base could not afford such a project. I also have a concern about the new Gate at the Dam not being big enough to lower the level of the river to remove in the fall and install in the spring the boards, which raise the level to keep it from being a mud flat. Thousands of taxpayer dollars were spent on this project and it does not work and no one wants to talk about it!

I don't know if we have to add anything, but I think we should take care of what we have and return the river to what it once was. The bridge needs maintenance to the stonework; the parking area at the bridge needs to be updated as far as bank stabilization and landscaping. The area at the bridge is used extensively in the summer and is one of the most visible spots in Town in regards to the rivers and mountains, the river bank needs to have garbage picked up on a regular basis. Old fashioned lights on the bridge would be nice, not seeing the wires overhead would be nice. Salt runoff is very much a concern. Storm water runoff is a concern, is this being addressed in the road project, which is to begin in the spring through the center of town? You can see the extensive silt buildup at the lower side of each side of the bridge from the current storm water runoff system. Whiteface Ski Center needs to be looked at, there were major mud/landslides in the seventies in the mid nineties, huge amounts of debris went into the river, can anything be done to prevent this?

The Beach area needs to have the pavilion updated, the bathrooms are disgusting, landscaping and stabilizing the shoreline could greatly enhance what is already there. The comment made about the

flume area was dead on, it is a beautiful area which has extreme use in the summer and no one takes care of it, there is garbage all over all the time. There are biking and hiking trails at the flume, fishing, cross country skiing and snow shoeing in the winter, this area should be enhanced and promoted, most people don't know that it exists and it is one of the most beautiful walks anywhere. We don't really need more; we need to take care of what we have. People are not going to give up the water front for a nature walk, it will never happen, so we should not waste time spinning our wheels on this.

In conclusion I think we need to take care of what we have and then I think the locals and businesses alike we benefit together.

Randy Preston  
century.fire@frontiemet.net

### **My Favorite Things about the River**

By: Bekah Ashley (age 12)

*Water is one of the best things ever, especially on a warm summer day. Going down to the Au Sable River swimming and boating, from our home to the Lake Everest Beach, have always been my favorite things to do in the summer. This past year Y however, I have noticed how shallow things are getting.*

*I really enjoy catching turtles in the spring; love to swim in the summer, kayak in the fall, and skate in the winter. I love the beauty of the mountains and the river and enjoy taking pictures with my dad's camera.*

### **What I like about the Au Sable River and Beach**

By: Elisabeth Ashley (age 7)

*I like the beach because I like to swim, play on the playground, and I like to play with my friends when I am there. I like to make sand castles with my brother and play on the swings.*

*I like to boat down to the beach, find turtles, and walk along the banks of the river with my dog Cookie. I also like to find pretty rocks when I walk through the river with my water shoes on.*

*I always like to play with my brother, sisters, and friends down at the river. It is so pretty there.*

### **Some Memories of the AuSable during the 50's**

*Fishing -could always catch two or three good trout just below Bowman's on any day. We would swim first and then fish in the afternoon.*

*Swimming-Many families and tourists would spend all day at the "Fish and Game Club" (now the Town Beach) There was no beach and the water became deep very near shore. There was a diving board for many years.*

*Swimming at the bridge was very popular. Jumping from the bridge (or diving) was a rite of passage. There was an anchored raft up-river from the bridge (I think owned by the Wilmington Inn) that was used often as a place to sunbathe or dive from. There was also a springboard just below the bridge, on the west bank. Boating-Several people had small motorboats on the river. They were usually 5 horsepower or less.*

*Carol Yard, who lived at the Bridge, had a speedboat and he would tow water skiers from there to the back of my property. My property is one mile from the corner toward L.P. It is probably one and one half or two miles by river.*

*The river would be periodically drained in the fall. I can remember canoeing in very shallow water with a gravel bottom much of the way from my house to the beach area.*

*The river seemed much deeper at that time. It was six or seven or more feet in many areas. It has become more and shallower as the years have passed. There are many stretches of the river from the bridge to the riffles where you can walk without ever getting your shoulders wet.*

*The backwaters have heavy vegetation since the work on the dam. This limits navigation in them to a large extent. Several of these areas were good places to view wildlife from a Canoe or Kayak.. The backwaters affected are several acres in area. I fear that the vegetation will add to the process of siltation and cause these areas to become bogs instead of open water as they have been for the last 50 or so years.*

*I have canoed, boated, swam and fished on the AuSable for over fifty years. There seems to be acceleration in recent years of the siltation process.*

*I would hate to see it become a shallow warm water pond.*

*Bill McConvey*