

Cote, Alex

From: B LaCasce <bplacace@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 4, 2024 3:59 PM
To: SLG
Subject: LD2101

This message originates from outside the Maine Legislature.

Hello,

I wish to add my voice to the group of concerned citizens who feel the urgency to grant our towns and municipalities the ability to enforce critically important ordinances that protect our inland waters. In recent years, we have watched unscrupulous homeowners purchase lakefront lots only to tear down the shorezone trees, move or remove rocks, build walls and dump sand knowing full well their actions violate their permits. Reckless abandon, afforded by deep pockets, pays little heed to the inconvenience of fines and legal fees. Especially, knowing full well that towns have little means and few tools to enforce the rules. This is true for Sebago Lake, for Long Lake and, I fear, for many towns in Maine. This is infuriating.

My particular connection to Raymond Cape goes back to 1918 when my grandparents arrived at Sebago. Grandpa was a teacher and a Maine Guide. My grandparents taught us to paddle a canoe, cast a line, stack wood, and build a fire. If we needed cordwood, we chose a tree carefully, far from the water. If we needed rocks, we moved them from the field, not the shoreline. We did this, our neighbors did this, everyone did. It was part of being "upta camp".

Now, the world is a different place. We can travel further for the weekend. Many can afford a second home in a beautiful place. And that's a wonderful luxury that I'm glad people can enjoy. Yet, with privilege comes responsibility. We have to work together to protect all that makes Maine unique. Please work with our towns and hard working code enforcement professionals by giving them the tools they need to enforce the regulations that are critical to protecting Maine's priceless resources. So many home owners and contractors work hard to follow the rules. Let's make sure everyone does the same. There is too much at stake if we don't.

Sincerely,
Barbara LaCasce
Bridgton, Maine