

Janice Rockwood

From: Rena Masson <rena.tunkcityrevival@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, June 10, 2022 1:42 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: Windham Tolland 4H Camp Dam Project

To Whom it may concern ,

Hello my name is Rena Masson , Life long Killingly resident , business owner of Tunk City Revival and 4Her ! Windham Tolland 4 H Camp holds a near and dear spot in my heart , and always will !

From Memories as a child attending Ragged Hills Woods there when at KIS , and With the Environmental science club when I was at KHS .

I later spent 10 summers I working there everything from A general councilor , arts and crafts instructor , horse barn staff , head female councilor , archery instructor and Waterfront Director !

Camp is a magic place , it fosters growth and love for kids and young adults and it is a beautiful part of north eastern Ct community !! I can directly attribute growing into the woman I am today from my because of experiences at camp !

The Dam project is something that effects so much !! I recently hosted a fundraiser 100% of the proceeds to camp for the dam !

The pond At camp is where everyone wants to be all summer long with over 8 weeks of campers coming and going . The pond is where many kids learn how to swim, learning their Red Cross swim lessons. Also boating safety , kayaking , fishing .

The environmental science exploration of the birds , beavers , turtles, fish , snakes , bugs , plant life and more ! The pond is not only beautiful but a great place for all to enjoy ! Even when I taught arts and crafts we used the pond , often painting it's beautiful scenery, and I even taught underwater basketry in the Npool on particularly hot week at Camp !

My mother now 71 , attended Windham Tolland 4H Camp in the 60's and that is where she learned to swim !

Your donation would not only help to save the dam , but save camp as we know it ! Helping to make many more years of memories and education for all !

- Thank you for your time

Rena Masson
Owner
Tunk City Revival
100 Main St
Danielson CT 06239

June 2022

To the Killingly Town Council,

This letter is to support the request made by the Windham County 4-H Foundation for money to help save the large recreational pond by providing funding towards the dam repair and reconstruction project.

The lodge overlooks a large scenic pond that comes alive every summer with children kayaking, canoeing, fishing, swimming and dreaming. It is an integral part of the summer program and habitat of study in the off season through Ragged Hill Woods environmental programs. Some lucky visitors may happen upon the beaver slapping his tail at dusk or the heron dropping in for dinner.

Thousands of children from Killingly have attended the Windham-Tolland 4-H Camp in Pomfret since it was established in 1954. For years the Killingly school system augmented science and environmental studies by sending students to the Ragged Hill Woods program held at the same facility. The facility has hosted band camp, horse camp, FFA leadership workshops, and accommodated campers and their aides from Camp Quinebaug when it closed one summer.

Children do not need to join 4-H to attend camp but everyone who attends is exposed to the 4-H program through the 4-H pledge which is said at every morning flag raising along with the pledge of allegiance. "I pledge my head to clearer thinking, my heart to greater loyalty, my hands to better service, and my health to better living, to my club, my community, my country and the world." (4-H pledge)

My parents moved to Snake Meadow Road in South Killingly in the 1940's. All seven of us children attended 4-H camp. Some of us got our first jobs there as pot boys, lifeguards, program director, and arts and crafts teacher. At camp we met kids from all over the state, the country and were always excited to meet staff who came from England, Sweden, Australia, Germany and Scotland and other places we hoped to see someday.

As of the 8th of June there were over 700 children registered for this summer's camp program and with more to come, (many registered for more than one week). Sixty or more of those already registered are from Killingly. Some of them come from families who have been coming for generations and others are coming with camperships. All of them will have the opportunity to immerse themselves not only in the pond, but in all the excitement and wonder a week at camp (unplugged) can offer.

For Killingly residents this is an opportunity to be a part of something lasting and beneficial to future generations of children. I know my family is not the only one in Killingly willing to support the foundation and its programs. Eleven of the 36 members of the Windham County 4-H Foundation are Killingly volunteers, the other 25 coming from 18 different towns.

Thank you, for giving the 4-H Foundation the opportunity to apply and be considered for these funds.

Sincerely,



Jane (Daly) Rider

Killingly, CT

President, Windham County 4-H Foundation, INC.

Janice Rockwood

From: Jane Smith <mom2artist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 3:41 PM
To: Public Comment
Subject: ARPA Funding for Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.

Dear Members of the Killingly Town Council,

I am writing to ask you to support the request made by the Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc. to help preserve the pond by providing funding towards the dam reconstruction project.

As residents of Killingly for the past 20+ years and parents of 4 children who have all attended the 4-H Camp as young campers and then as teen leaders - and one is in his 4th year on staff – we have seen what a difference it has made in their lives. The camp atmosphere allows our children to be themselves, to grow their independence, to learn to work as a team, and fosters growth and self-esteem. Being screen-free encourages them to take time to enjoy nature and their surroundings as well as connect with other campers and staff.

The pond is integral to the programs at camp. We asked our children what their favorite part about the pond at camp was. We thought we would hear things like swimming, boating or fishing, which we did, but our daughter shared about “*Time for Thought*” which is located on a hill overlooking the pond as one of her favorite parts about the pond at camp. “*Time for Thought*” is a place where the campers spend quiet time reflecting over their time at camp and have an opportunity to share with their fellow campers and staff anything they may have learned about themselves or something new they learned that week.

Camp creates so many wonderful and positive memories. We thank you for the opportunity you gave to the Windham County 4-H Foundation to present their request and for your consideration on using the ARPA funds towards the dam reconstruction project . Please know that these funds will help give the same opportunities our children had to hundreds of children in the future.

Respectfully,

Jane & Ronald Smith
91 Reynolds Street
Danielson, CT 06239