

The Nehemiah Brainerd House Bed & Breakfast



September 29, 2017

Hon. Lizz Milardo
First Selectman
Town of Haddam
30 Field Park Drive
Haddam, CT 06438

Dear First Selectman Milardo:

I am writing in reference to Project No: 40-141, Haddam Swing Bridge DOT# 01138 and, specifically the addition of a walkway during the reconstruction of the bridge.

As Vice Chairman of the (Connecticut) Central Regional Tourism District as well as being the owner of the Nehemiah Brainerd House Bed & Breakfast in Haddam I am well aware of the cultural and financial benefits that tourism brings to Haddam and the Lower CT River Valley. Tourism is one of the bright spots in Connecticut's otherwise down economy and has served to be a major job creator.

During the past few years the "River Towns"; especially Haddam and East Haddam, have worked together to foster tourism and economic development in the two towns. Among other things, the two towns have jointly hired an Economic Development Director, have held joint meetings of the two Economic Development Commissions and have planned joint tourism events such as Haddam/E. Haddam Spring/Fall Weekends.

The Essex Steam Train has recently expanded the distance that it travels into Haddam, which is bringing more and more tourists to Eagle Landing State Park who wish to walk across the bridge into E. Haddam for shopping, shows, music concerts and restaurants.

A big impediment to increased commerce/tourism between the two towns is the fact that there is no walkway over the Swing Bridge and anyone trying to walk or bicycle over the bridge is putting their lives in danger. Constructing the sidewalk is as much a safety issue as it is a tourism/economic issue.

I also serve as Chairman of the CT Bed & Breakfast Association. There are two B&Bs in E. Haddam and one in Haddam. In conjunction with the State Office of Tourism, the B&B Association put together a B&B/Bicycle Trail <http://www.ctbandbs.com/b-b-bike-trail/about.htm>

Hon. Lizz Milardo
Page 2.

The trail takes cyclists from the Haddam to the E. Haddam side of the river and beyond but, unfortunately, there is no safe way for cyclists to cross the bridge. The walkway would open what is virtually a “dead end” at the river for cyclists.

For both safety and enhanced tourism reasons, I strongly urge the construction of the walkway on the Swing Bridge.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jeffrey E. Muthersbaugh

Jeffrey E. Muthersbaugh, Owner
Nehemiah Brainerd House Bed & Breakfast