

From: [Rachel Henschel](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: 92 Families Support Sewataro Contract Extension - Public comment to be read at Apr 12 Meeting
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 9:00:14 AM
Attachments: [Swataro Contract Support 92 Families April 12 2022.pdf](#)

Dear Select Board,

Please find a letter attached from 92 Sudbury families that support the board voting in favor of a 5-year Sewataro Contract Extension at tonight's meeting. Please read into public comment.

Sincerely,
Rachel Henschel

****Please Read Into Public Comment at April 12, 2022 Select Meeting****

April 12, 2022

Dear Select Board,

This letter is from **92 Sudbury families** that support the approval of the Sewataro operator contract. The families joining in support include families with Sewataro campers and many families that do not have campers at Sewataro. Continuing the operator contract for the next five years will create numerous benefits for our community:

- 1) Sudbury needs more reliable childcare options in the future, not fewer. There are currently waitlists at several local preschools, SED, and camps like Sudbury Summer, Longfellow and Camp Sewataro. Parents are anxious about securing dependable childcare. We commend the Select Board's role in expanding Camp Sewataro to 400 Sudbury campers including scholarships. This is helpful to our community. If the operator contract is not extended, the camp will not be available to these 400 campers in the future, creating demand for other camps and childcare, thus creating even longer waits at all of them.
- 2) Sewataro expands the recreational opportunities families will have. The grounds have been open to Girl Scouts, food pantry and civic meetings. The operator contract will expand swimming in the pool and pond which will attract many families. The operator has also maintained the grounds so that the community can enjoy – this is different from other recently acquired properties.
- 3) The proposed contract will deliver generous revenues to the town. Currently, 25% of the first \$1,000,000 and 33% thereafter go to the town. These revenues “could help” pay down the town's debt for purchasing the property. Without this revenue, the town will have to find other means to pay that debt or fund other services. The Select Board needs to be clear and transparent about the financial strain that will be created without Sewataro revenues. What services will have to be cut starting in September 2022 if the contract isn't renewed?

The town approved the purchase of Sewataro in 2019. It is the Select Board's duty to act in good faith to uphold the town's clear direction. The Select Board selected this camp operator through a transparent RFP process because they were the best fit for the town. We appreciate the Select Board's efforts in revising this contract, expanding child care options, expanding recreational and civic spaces, and acting in a financially responsible manner for our town's future.

Please know we are just a few of the many families that see the value and benefit in renewing the Sewataro operator contract by voting in favor on April 12, 2022.

Respectfully signed,

Sudbury Families

Sudbury Families with Sewataro Campers

Brigette Sayles, 54 Ames Rd.

Rachel & Matt Henschel, 3 Drum Lane

Volha & Virendra Kumar, 22 Demarco Rd.

Treanors, 8 Skyview Lane

Laura and Patrick McCabe, 15 DeMarco Rd

Bhargavi & Pradeep Rao, 12 Drum Lane

Shannon & Luke Paxton, 20 Crescent Lane

Steve & Leila Frank, 24 Raynor Rd

Riju and Siris Bajracharya, 27 Basswood Ave

Jackie and Tom Blesso, 120 Plympton Road

Lisa & Peter West, 42 Hawes Rd.

Melissa & Tim Perla, 30 Pelham Island Rd

Megan Munroe 32 Old Framingham Road Unit 21

Adam and Jenn Stone 35 Taintor Drive

Barbara Munroe 32 Old Framingham Road Unit 21

Jamie Abels 19 Washington Dr

Allison & David Evans, 35 Fox Hill Road

Angela and AJ Lee 42 Hopestill Brown Road

Stacy & Scott Munroe, 37 Greystone Ln

Sandy and Chris Hinckley 4 Homestead st.

Colleen & Pat Whalen, 53 Willard Grant Rd

Michelle Harrison & Kevin Chin 4 Huckleberry Lane

Paige Erdige, 37 Greystone Lane

Marissa & Kevin Cole, 195 Woodside Road

Megan and Mike Bowhers, 12 Bulkley Rd	Dana and Ben Roth, 181 Woodside Rd
Geoff and Alison Riquier, 136 Dakin Rd	The Nam Family, 5 Homestead
Robyn and Mark Lewis, 10 Birchwood Ave	Kim and Tim MacDonough, 11 Murray Drive
Shelly Skinner, 37 Greystone Ln	Jennifer Murphy, 43 Hobart Road
Laura Gazaille and Benjamin Broderick, 142 Dakin Rd.	Jennifer and Berkeley O'Keefe, 25 Beckwith St.
Jon & Lauren Duke, 29 Drum Ln	Rachel and Andrew Goodman, 70 Firecut Lane
Solowey Family, 20 Dunster Road is	Kim & Jon Napoli 9 Spruce Lane
Mark, Catherine & Lia Oppenheim Bonnie McAlley 141 Greystone Lane	Julie and James Dereshinsky, 6 Old Coach Road
Sara Bodi, 54 Ruddock Rd	Kristin Johnson and Daniel Brock, 388 Willis Road
Mark & Geraldine Tarini, 5 Cobblestone Lane	Jessica & Steve Wells, 142 Longfellow Rd
Shana & Joe Sconyers, 49 Amanda Road	yavonne ortiz 655 boston post rd
Jason and Misty Raines, 73 Greystone Ln	Crystal & Randy Pike 20 Revolutionary Rd
Megan Kelley and Chris Bernardi 109 Dakin Road	Joe and Hilary LaFrange 16 Perry Cir
Jessica & Hussain Mooraj 43 Greystone Lane	Phil and Karen Walper 128 Longfellow rd
Christine & Sean Barrett, 151 Peakham Rd	Laura and Lowell Briggs, 94 Belcher Drive
Joe & Jaime Budzienski, 120 Thunder Rd	John and Kate Bell
Kim Lewis/Brent Forester, 357 Willis Rd	Linda and Michael Lyons, 18 Fieldstone Farm Road

Sarah and Bryan Jones, 114 Old Garrison Rd	The Libermans, 17 Hopestill Brown Road
Ellen and Marc Levy, 24 Aaron Rd.	Matt & Mary Dallas, 164 Greystone Ln
Nemat & Moataz Elrafie, 20 Cobblestone Ln	Christy and Eddie Dunn, 14 Saunders Road
The Shapiro Family, 85 Greystone	Chris and Heather Johnson, 5 Ledge Road
DeThe Vander Els Family, 96 Mossman Road	Tom and Lisa Croce, 26 Stone Root Ln
The Kudravetz Family, 17 Maynard Farm Circle	Anne & Brian Devine, 24 Pokonoket Ave
Laura and Mark Howrey, 55 Old Coach Rd.	The Fitzgeralds, 14 Massasoit Ave
Judy Merra and Morgan Molloy, 377 Lincoln Rd	Matt and Jana Quinn, 28 Sylvan Way
Anne and Dave Pace, 4 Silver Hill Road	Priscilla and Ian Shempp, 22 Ruddock Rd
Cindy and Bob Weinberger, 175 Greystone Lane	The Sullivan Family 22 Buckmaster Dr
The Aisenberg family, 14 Joan Ave	The Rothbart Family 43 Kendall Road
Anne-Marie Greenberg 16 Skyview Lane	Elizabeth & John McInnis 188 Greystone Lane
Michelle Spomer & Jon Habif 39 Balcom Rd	
Debra and Tom Termine 101 Fox Run Road	
Dave, Diane & Katie Dickinson, 57 Atkinson Lane	
Sarah and Mike Troiano, 342 Lincoln Road	
Stacey & Dusty Ladieu 35 Robert Frost Rd.	

Robyn Cohen and Josh Rose 22 Curry
Lane

The Blanchards 12 Christopher Ln.

Christine & Stuart Garner, 130 Concord
Road

Sam and Judy Merra 11 Woodside Road

Mike and Kristen Leonard 166 Mossman
Rd

From: [Judi Bajgot](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Camp Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:32:56 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes -

—Please read this letter into public record —

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years. This will allow time for the town to conduct all needed usage studies and make appropriate recommendations while also ensuring property is kept up and profitable. Currently the town does not have any plan to support Sewataro, maintain it or utilize it without the support of the camp.

The Select Board entrusted Mr. Russo to represent the town's interest in working out a contract that is fair for the town and its residents. The Board should support this new contract by voting YES and renew the Sewataro contract for 5 years to both protect our investment in this property and respect the will of our voters.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Doug and Judi Bajgot
43 Brookdale Rd
Sudbury, MA 01776

From: [Jackie Harder](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: In favor of extending the Sewataro contract
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:39:13 AM

Select Board:

I urge you to vote yes on the Sewataro contract. Over the past few years, we have been able to use the Sewataro property for recreation (bike rides and tennis with the kids), and for family picnics.

More publicly:

- my daughter took tennis lessons offered through LS continuing education this fall while the Featherland courts were unavailable due to LS practices. The town courts (delay, Featherland) are always busy and having the Sewataro courts available for younger players is amazing.
- my daughter has attended Girl Scout meetings and events on the property
- as event coordinator for the Sudbury Family Network which caters to families with kids <6, we have hosted picnics, playdates, and a fishing tournament that had over 200 sudbury attendees.
- all 3 of my daughters were able to have their dance recitals during COVID because their Studio (the performing arts connection, also in sudbury) held an outdoor recital in May 2021 on the sewataro property.
- two of my children have attended camp Sewataro in 2020, 2021, and will attend in 2022.

I would also like to point out that the Select Board has had over three years to consider what to do “next” with the Liberty Ledge property. Failing to renew a revenue generating contract without a plan for the land makes no sense. After extending the contract, I would urge the select board to get a working group in place (or re activate the old one) to consider how- if at all- to change the way the property is used in the future. For what it’s worth, a “land use consultant” seems like an easy way to fritter away 100k when we have the ability to form a strong collaborative working group within town.

Finally, I would like to see more transparency into where the revenue from Sewataro has and will be going.

Jackie Harder
201 Union Ave
Sudbury

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dawn Solowey](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Please renew Sewataro contract
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:41:09 PM

Please read my letter aloud into the public record

Please decide to renew the Sewataro camp operator contract for another 5 yrs. The town voted to purchase Sewataro, and for good reason. It's a hugely important and valuable asset to the town. The camp is also an important asset, and is well run.

Please don't allow the minority who opposed the purchase to do an end run around that vote.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Troiano](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Cc: [Michael Troiano \(h\)](#)
Subject: Public Comment regarding Sewataro property
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 4:21:26 PM

Dear Select Board,

We are writing in order to urge you to vote tonight to accept the newly negotiated 5 year contract with the current Camp Sewataro operator. To do otherwise, would go against the will of the majority of Sudbury voters who voted decisively to buy the Sewataro land for the purpose of preservation and enjoyment by current and future generations of Sudbury residents. Vigorous debate was had, the vote was clear, and now the Select Board must honor it. To suggest that not extending the contract WHILE we undergo a land use plan is financially irresponsible at best, and disingenuous at worst.

Do we need to develop a long term land usage plan for this property? Of course, we do. The same way we still need to develop one for Broadacre. But, unlike Broadacre and all other conservation land purchases in the past, we are in an enviable and unique position to simultaneously work on a long term usage plan WHILE RECEIVING REVENUE from the property. This is the ultimate win win. To forgo this revenue opportunity would be a dereliction of your fiduciary responsibilities to the Town. And, to further strengthen the case, by signing the contract tonight, not only do we guarantee five years of revenue from the land, but we can do so WHILE RESIDENTS ENJOY AND RECREATE on the property.

We won't go on about the ample opportunities for recreation and our opinion on the myriad ways this property could be used for the benefit of Sudbury residents of all ages. That is not the decision at hand at this moment. The decision right now is simple. Vote to extend the contract, and by doing so you will guarantee revenue from the property, enable continued recreation use at current and newly negotiated levels, provide time to develop a thorough land use plan and, most importantly, honor the will of the voters you serve.

Thank you for listening.

Best Regards,
Sarah and Mike Troiano
342 Lincoln Road, Sudbury

From: [CHAS GUTHY](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Reject Extension of Management Agreement of Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 9:30:05 PM

April 11, 2022

To Select Board Members

I am writing to you to express my concern and opposition to Select Board entering into a multi-year extension of the Management Agreement for the Sewataro Camp Operator before the upcoming Town Meeting. This matter will affect the entire Town of Sudbury, its residents, and tax payers. It requires input from the residents of the Town, based on facts and information. When the vote to purchase Liberty Ledge/Sewataro was taken at Town Meeting, the residents of the Town did not have the facts required to make an informed decision.

Subsequently, as part of a larger study/report of all the Town's programs, services, activities and Town-owned facilities, this property was evaluated to assess compliance with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Town contracted with the Institute of Human Centered Design (IHCD) to conduct the study. This resulted in a comprehensive report. The Liberty Ledge Property/Sewataro was part of this study. The IHCD was directed by the Town to consider 4 possible operational scenarios for the camp and to describe relevant accessibility requirements. These scenarios are summarized on pages 1-2 of the Sewataro Summary and on pages 20-21 of the Executive Summary of the IHCD Report. The consultant recommended that a comprehensive study be undertaken to determine the feasibility of addressing these issues and stated that the expertise of a professional surveyor and landscape architect was required. This has not been done.

Based on this information, the Select Board needs to delay the determination to extend the management agreement so that due diligence can be done in evaluating the best use and access to this property. This information needs to be provided to the residents of the Town, so they can, at Town Meeting, make an informed decisions on the use and the management of the property.

I ask each member of the Board to review the information which is provided in this email, follow the recommendations of the Town selected Consultant (IHCD), and carefully, and judiciously make a decision that is in the best interest of the Town now and for its future by bring it to a vote of the citizens of the Town at Town Meeting.

Respectfully,
Patricia Guthy

From: [Lauren Pond](#)
To: [Select Board](#); [Hayes, Henry](#); [Roberts, Jennifer](#); [Russo, Charlie](#); [Carty, Daniel](#); schinellerW@sudbury.ma.us; [Dretler, Janie](#); [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Renew Camp Sewataro operator contract
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:08:15 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes:

--please read this into the record--

I am writing to urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years.

First and most importantly, the town **overwhelmingly** voted to purchase the land just a few years ago. I am shocked and horrified to hear this could be undone behind the scenes despite the clear wishes of the majority of the town.

Secondly, the property at Sewataro has already provided benefits to town residents. As I understand it, the camp saw \$450k in profits last summer -- while still operating during a pandemic! In addition to the benefit of revenue from the camp, residents can enjoy hikes on the property in the spring/fall, or snow shoe in the winter. Sudbury residents can and do often use the tennis courts. Sudbury organizations and businesses use the property for special outings. For example, Viking Martial Arts has hosted amazingly fun classes for kids, Scout troops hold meetings there, and the Sudbury Family Network has hosted fishing days and plans to use the space for the Fall Festival this year. And this is just the beginning. As we move out of the pandemic and residents really get used to having this valuable resource I am confident we will see more organizations using the space to the benefit of Sudbury residents.

Finally, I urge you to consider the importance of maintaining summer camp options for Sudbury residents. We have a growing child care problem in this town -- from the completely embarrassing lack of after school care to insufficient access to conveniently located summer camps. As it is, many of the camps that could be used by Sudbury residents (including **but not limited to** Sewataro) are completely booked within hours of registration opening. That should highlight how much working parents need this camp to remain an option for our residents as an additional option.

Please vote YES to extend the Camp Sewataro operator contract and allow it and Sudbury residents more time to fully realize its potential.

Lauren Pond

--

Lauren Ann Pond
508-280-8552

From: [Lisa Schulz](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Renew Sewataro Operator Contract
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 4:25:50 PM

Dear Select Board,

This letter is to express support for the approval of the Sewataro operator contract. Continuing the operator contract for the next five years will create numerous benefits for our community:

- 1) Sewataro expands the recreational opportunities families have, and is a very peaceful and precious open space for our community. The operator has maintained the grounds so that the entire community can enjoy this land, which is different from other recently acquired properties.
- 2) Although our children have grown and flown, we are aware that Sudbury needs more reliable childcare options, not fewer - particularly given the influx of young children expected to move into the huge development on 117 near the Concord line. We commend the Select Board's role in expanding Camp Sewataro to 400 Sudbury campers including scholarships, and applaud the expansion of swimming opportunities which will attract many additional families in the future. If the operator contract is not extended, the camp will not be available to these 400 campers in the future, creating demand for other camps and childcare, and even longer waits at the few existing options.
- 3) The proposed contract will deliver generous revenues to the town. Currently, 25% of the first \$1,000,000 and 33% thereafter go to the town. These revenues pay down the town's debt for purchasing the property. Without this revenue, the town will have to find other means to pay that debt or fund other services. The Select Board needs to be clear and transparent about the financial strain that will be created without Sewataro revenues. We don't need additional ill-thought out developments in town, nor can we afford a reduction in services. What services will have to be cut starting in September 2022 if this contract isn't renewed?

The town approved the purchase of Sewataro in 2019, after much debate and a view into the benefits and proposed directional use of this property. It is the Select Board's duty to act in good faith to uphold the town's clear intent. The Select Board selected this camp operator through a transparent RFP process because they were the best fit for the town. We appreciate the Select Board's efforts in revising this contract, expanding child care options, expanding recreational and civic spaces, and acting in a financially responsible manner for our town's future.

Please continue to act as good stewards of this space and renew the Sewataro operator contract by voting in favor on April 12, 2022.

Respectfully signed,

Lisa Schulz and George Mandt
257 Mossman Road

From: judy@zumbawithjudy.com
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Select Board Meeting 4/12/2022
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 5:11:42 PM

Check out this article on the Town of Sudbury Website: Select Board Meeting
<https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboard/meeting/select-board-meeting-tuesday-april-12-2022/>

To whom it may concern:

As a regular user of the Liberty Lodge from 2020 till the present I am pleased to report that my students and I absolutely love our experience there. It has been a true blessing for all of us to enjoy dance fitness class once and sometimes twice a week. We even enjoyed our classes when it was 20 degrees out. If not for Camp Sewataro many of us would have endured many days of frustration and sadness over not being able to get our workouts in during Covid and not only that we loved seeing our friends and teachers. I can't tell you how many people asked me who can we thank for allowing us to use that amazing dance floor of the Lodge and look out in to nature at the same time. Kristen was so easy to deal with and we only cancelled when there were the major snowstorms on a few Friday mornings. Our students have said they are hoping that we can still use Camp Sewataro for our classes even if Covid becomes less of an issue. How lucky are we in Sudbury to have such an amazing property available to us. We take care not to leave any trash of any kind and our footprint is minimal. I hope that the Board votes to allow the community to keep using the property for many years to come-a simple act would make so many people happy and healthy!

Submitted by Judy Quint Owner of a Dance Fitness business

From: [Scott Sawin](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro 5 year contract
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 11:53:08 AM

To the members of the Sudbury Select Board:

I'm asking this letter be read aloud and submitted into public record. (04-12-2022)

Saving the Sewataro property as a camp for children was voted for by the majority of Sudbury. This vote deserves to be honored and respected. Planning to do anything else with this property is clearly against the will of the majority. Due to the pandemic, the camps full potential of generating revenue for the town has not yet been realized. It deserves the opportunity to prove its value during normal operational conditions. The town owns many properties which we were all asked to support financially. I'm not aware of any other property generating or having the potential to generate revenue for the town at this level indefinitely while also providing invaluable opportunities and experiences for children.

Issues or concerns regarding the agreed legal use of this property are minimal based on similar town owned property concerns that set precedent. Given the level of experience and professional expertise on the Select Board, I'm confident you are capable of resolving any legitimate concerns with allowing this property to continue generating revenue for the town indefinitely.

As a member of the Select Board you are held to a high level of ethics and moral decisions. You are obligated to respect and honor the will of the people you represent. The majority has given you their decision on the future of this revenue generating property. Supporting any other use of this property could be considered unethical. Your support of the 5 year contract to allow this property to continue generating revenue for Sudbury as a camp for the children as well as preserving the character of our town is vital.

Respectfully yours,

Scott L. Sawin
52 Puffer Lane
Sudbury MA, 01776

From: [Elizabeth Sobol](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Cc: [Biz Lau Sobol](#)
Subject: Sewataro Contract Vote
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 10:58:52 AM

Dear Select Board Members,

Please read at public comment.

I am writing to strongly encourage you to renew the contract with the management of Camp Sewataro for the proposed 5 years. This contract was negotiated in good faith and the director has done everything that has been asked of him. The town deserves the chance to reap the benefits of the enhancements that are planned for the next 5 years. The town also deserves to profit from the significant ongoing revenue that the camp produces. However, the ultimate value of this property cannot solely be measured in dollars, as much as many would like to try.

To be transparent: I have a horse in the race. Both of my children attended Sewataro so it is a very special place to us. One of my children is a current CIT and hopes to be a counselor for as long as they'll have him. Without exaggeration, it is one of the most important places in the world to us because it is a place that offers camaraderie, teaches leadership, and promotes acceptance. It is, in a word, Amazing.

I want Sewataro to exist not only for the campers, but for future Parks and Rec programs, the Girl Scouts, even the Goodnow Library. Let the income from 8 weeks of camp allow that to happen the rest of the year.

There are very real concerns among the citizens of Sudbury that the discussion around renewing the contract needs to be held in good faith. These concerns are coming from families who do NOT have a specific vested interest in the camp itself. Their kids don't go to Sewataro and they don't live in North Sudbury near the property. What they want is integrity, transparency, and true representation from our Select Board members. They are depending on you to follow through on the promises that were made to them when they overwhelmingly voted to purchase the property. They want the income, they want the access, they want the space to be an asset to the town. They want you to ensure that that happens.

We all know there is a group of people in Sudbury who are vehemently opposed to all things Sewataro. I worry that their opinion is being exclusively represented by the push for the land-use assessment that singles out Sewataro and no other open spaces in town.. Where is the push for this same assessment at Broadacres? Is there another agenda that is not being articulated? We appeal to your honesty.

The Town voted to purchase Sewataro. We all knew there was work to be done to integrate it into our community. That work takes time. It's now up to you to give the leadership of the camp a fair and honest chance to fulfill the promise that the property holds.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Sobol
122 Woodside Road

From: [Sudbury Girl Scouts](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro contract
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 12:30:32 PM

Dear Select Board members,

I can't be at the Select Board meeting tonight, so I respectfully ask for this note to be read aloud into the public record on my behalf:

I'm writing to ask that you approve the 5-year contract proposed for the current camp operator at Sewataro. I believe 5 years is critical to allow enough time to properly consider the best uses of the property, implement necessary changes, and ensure continued benefit to the Town from the purchase we approved at Town Meeting in 2019. Many of us rely on Sewataro as a place to gather and enjoy all that it has to offer, whether walking the trails with friends, using it for informal gatherings, or hosting events for the hundreds of girls and parents in Sudbury Girl Scouts. In the past several years, Sudbury Girl Scouts has used the property for troop meetings, donation drives, our annual (and beloved) Cookie Crush Derby, a celebration of Girl Scout founder Daisy Low's birthday featuring a variety of outdoor skills and games, and much more. There is no other space like Sewataro available to us, incorporating both ample outdoor space and covered, usable pavilions. There are also no spaces currently available to us for recurring use without the user fees charged by local churches, schools, and the Fairbank center. I urge you to continue with the current camp operator and continue free access for scouting groups. A 5-year contract ensures both revenue and continued access for all while long-term plans are made.

Thank you,
Christine Garner
On Behalf of Sudbury Girl Scouts
130 Concord Road, Sudbury

Christine Garner, Service Unit Coordinator
Sudbury Girl Scouts - Service Unit 461
SudburyGirlScouts.org
[Facebook.com/sudburygirlscouts](https://www.facebook.com/sudburygirlscouts) (our public page)
[Facebook.com/groups/SudburyGST](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SudburyGST) (our private group)

From: [JENNIFER O'KEEFE](#)
To: [Select Board's Office](#); [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Sewataro Contract
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:02:12 PM

---Please read this letter into public record---

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes,

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years. This is mutually beneficial to the town and its residents.

Sincerely,
Jennifer O'Keefe
25 Beckwith St.

From: [Erin Muscatiello](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro input for 4/12 special meeting
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:43:08 AM

Greetings Select Board members and friends of our community,

My understanding is there will be a special vote this evening to decide whether our community will be moving forward with a operator contract renewal for Camp Sewetaro. I was under the impression we already voted as a community to keep the land, but I would like to formally express my support to renew the contract and secure Sewarto as a community establishment. I have two small children who I hope can experience this amazing camp and would very much like to see it remain in our community. It brings us together and provides lifelong memories for our children. Please keep this important camp in our town and allow the memories to continue.

Erin Muscatiello
19 Silver Hill Rd, Sudbury, MA 01776

From: [Phyllis Kaufman](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro Management Extension
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 5:56:05 PM

To the Board,

Dear Select Board Members,

I am writing to you to express my concern and opposition to entering into a multi-year extension of the Management Agreement for the Sewataro Camp Operator before the upcoming Town Meeting.

The 2019 Town Meeting authorization to purchase the Liberty Ledge property intended to make the entire site a Town resource available to Town residents year-round. The current Management Agreement and the Third Amendment to that Agreement which would extend the Management Agreement for an additional 5 years, does not accomplish that intention. In addition, there are two warrant articles to be debated at the upcoming Town Meeting that will be adversely impacted by the signing of an extension before Town Meeting. You and your fellow Select Board members must be committed to doing what is best for the Town in keeping with the Town's clear intentions. Extending the Management Agreement by 5 years with no way to expedite the implementation of a long-range plan for the property is irresponsible and against the clear intent of the 2019 Town Meeting.

I urge you not to vote to extend the Management Agreement prior to Town Meeting and to seek input at the Town Meeting with respect to extending that Agreement. I also urge you to support the Town Meeting article that would retain an experienced land use consultant to prepare a comprehensive study of the Liberty Ledge property and would make possible the implementation of a best use strategy for the property as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention concerning this matter.

Phyllis L. Kaufman

Phyllis L. Kaufman
165 Nobscot Road
Sudbury, Massachusetts 01776

From: megankelley4@gmail.com
To: [Select Board](#); [Town Manager](#); [Russo, Charlie](#); [Carty, Daniel](#); [Dretler, Janie](#); [Roberts, Jennifer](#); schinellerW@sudbury.ma.us
Subject: Sewataro vote YES
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 1:21:29 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes:

--please read this into the record--

I am writing to urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years.

First and most importantly, the town **overwhelmingly** voted to purchase the land just a few years ago. I am shocked and horrified to hear this could be undone behind the scenes despite the clear wishes of the majority of the town.

Secondly, the property at Sewataro has already provided benefits to town residents. As I understand it, the camp saw \$450k in profits last summer -- while still operating during a pandemic! In addition to the benefit of revenue from the camp, residents can enjoy hikes on the property in the spring/fall, or snow shoe in the winter. Sudbury residents can and do often use the tennis courts. Sudbury organizations and businesses use the property for special outings. For example, Viking Martial Arts has hosted amazingly fun classes for kids, Scout troops hold meetings there, and the Sudbury Family Network has hosted fishing days and plans to use the space for the Fall Festival this year. And this is just the beginning. As we move out of the pandemic and residents really get used to having this valuable resource I am confident we will see more organizations using the space to the benefit of Sudbury residents.

Finally, I urge you to consider the importance of maintaining summer camp options for Sudbury residents. We have a growing child care problem in this town -- from the completely embarrassing lack of after school care to insufficient access to conveniently located summer camps. As it is, many of the camps that could be used by Sudbury residents (including **but not limited to** Sewataro) are completely booked within hours of registration opening. That should highlight how much working parents need this camp to remain an option for our residents as an additional option.

Please vote YES to extend the Camp Sewataro operator contract and allow it and Sudbury residents more time to fully realize its potential.

Megan Kelley
109 Dakin Road

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Anne Devine](#)
To: [Select Board](#); [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 3:31:26 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes:

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years.

Regards,
Anne Devine
24 Pokonoket Ave

From: [Colleen Mazin](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Cc: [Dave](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 7:07:41 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes,

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years.

--I am unable to attend the meeting, so please read this letter into public record.--

Thank you,

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Colleen Mazin

From: [doreen neale](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Cc: [Adam Neale](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:09:59 PM

To the Select Board:

We were confused and somewhat disappointed to learn that there has not been more consistent and timely resolution on the Sewataro camp plan. Of course the camp should be extended at least another 5 years - for the benefit of the town residents and for the ease of the camp's planning as a business. I am not clear why the past resident vote demonstrating the decision of the voters is being put aside by the board.

It would be amazing for our town to use the land in the future as a park - whether we charged admission or not could be determined but there are many parks around the state we could look to for more information on how to best utilize our beautiful space. I understand the buildings are a big part of the issue for maintenance but isn't there some kind of future scenario where a paid manager/caretaker could live in one of the houses and oversee operations year round if we decide to go without the camp after the next five year stretch ends? The buildings which are of concern could be removed and the area brought to its best operating state.

It feels concerning that board members are now perhaps looking to sell land that the town vote chose to purchase. Sudbury could absolutely benefit from the land - maybe another co-op pool and tennis club could happen there - certainly given the wait lists at Greenwood and SS&T there is a demonstrated need for more useable recreational space in town. Selling to a developer would create another burden on the schools (we haven't even yet experienced how the 117 development will affect us) and permanently erase a beautiful town resource. It is unfortunate that this process feels slightly underhanded; I won't pretend to know every detail of the conversations surrounding the plan but the vote was clear on what residents wanted. We would not even have known this was going on if a neighbor hadn't brought it up in passing conversation. Thank you for acting responsibly on behalf of the people you represent.

Sincerely

Doreen & Adam Neale
75 Wake Robin Road

From: [Chris Toomey](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 11:03:03 AM

Good morning. I wanted to send a brief note as I believe the board is meeting this week to discuss the future of liberty ledge. As you are all aware, the original purchase of the property was passed so that Sudbury could ensure the town would have control of it's future.

Now that we are a couple of years out from the initial purchase I believe it is time for us to figure out what is truly in the best interest of the town residents when it comes to this piece of land.

From my perspective, Sudbury being a landlord to a private for profit camp does not accomplish any long term goal that benefits the majority of residents.

Sudbury has thousands of acres of unspoiled open space but few with the facilities that liberty ledge enjoys. Due to a busy schedule and the fact that the windows for using the property during the day in the summer are so limited I've done a little more than drive by/through the property unfortunately.

We need to look no further than the promises made leading up to the vote to acquire the property to recognize what this property could become and how all residents could benefit from it. Of course none of those have come to fruition and locking the camp contract up for another five years ensures that the vast majority of residents will never be able to enjoy the property like Acton residents enjoy Nagog park, Concord residents Whites pond and Wayland residents lake Cochituate town beach.

I implore you to go back and revisit the intent of the original vote on the land. It was advertised as simply being a measure to ensure Sudbury could control the destiny of liberty ledge. Unfortunately that promise seems to have vaporized and nothing other than a continuation of a private camp is being discussed.

With housing prices skyrocketing in the area selling the land would bring a huge premium over the initial purchase price. Even a partial sale, meaning selling off a few of the buildable lots on the property, would bring huge revenue to the town and potentially allow public enjoyment of the land without needing a camp there to subsidize it.

In my opinion a town has no role in playing landlord to a private camps property. We should get out of the landlord business and figure out a way for all residents to enjoy the land at all times, year round.

Thank you for all of the work you put in to make Sudbury the amazing place it is and I appreciate your consideration of this email.

Chris Toomey
60 Camperdown Lane Sudbury Ma

From: [Liz McInnis](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 8:41:35 AM

Hello,

I am writing you to encourage the board to vote to extend the contract with Mr. Brody. As a neighbor of the camp, my family has enjoyed the four-season use of the camp land. We have also observed the broad use of the camp by many individuals, and groups, from all areas of Sudbury. We've noticed community members from all generations; walking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, playing basketball, fishing, playing tennis, dance studios holding senior graduation performances outside, exercise classes being held on the lawn and the open area structures - just to mention some of the observed activity. The camp has generously allowed the town to continue with helping the food insecure community with the food pantry collection and distribution (so the camp is not just for those who can afford to attend it).

The camp has been wonderful about keeping up the appearance around and inside the camp. The property is well maintained at no cost to the town and it generates income - I see this as a win-win for open space and sheltered use (especially during covid, which doesn't appear to be going away anytime soon).

I urge you to please vote, as a majority of the town residents did, to keep the camp as a town resource and to have the responsible, income generating camp continue for at least the next 5 years.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth McInnis
188 Greystone Lane

ps. I will not be at the meeting but would be agreeable to have my letter read at the meeting

From: [Eric Young](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro
Date: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 1:51:36 PM

Hi All,

I am writing to urge you all to please vote YES on the contract renewal for Sewataro. I have watched some of the prior meetings and discussion and appreciate the concerns that have been raised and I am glad that there are select board members raising concerns and fighting for the best contract possible for the town of Sudbury.

Having said that, in my view though, a vote for against this contract renewal under the current terms would only result in lost revenue in my opinion. I'm sure I'm not the first email in your inbox here, so I think it's probably obvious that other uses for the land will face fierce opposition by the large number of residents that support the camp and have been reaching out. If this contract is voted down the most likely outcome (in my humble opinion) is an idle stalemate. As I mentioned, the end result would just be lost revenue for the town while the land remains preserved by supporters of the camp but unused due to those that oppose it. Please don't let that happen!

At any rate, I'll leave it at that. Thanks so much for your time and thank you all for your volunteer service to the town.

Eric Younger
21 Windmill Drive

From: [Cheryl Budaj](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: Sewataro"s use as a camp
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 5:32:28 PM

Hi,

I am writing in support of continuing to use Sewataro as a summer camp. This is perhaps the only revenue generating town resources we have and we have no other viable usage plan. The funds that are brought in could help to renovate it should we no longer wish to allow the camp to operate. There is no need to break what is working, particularly when the town has no other plan. Unless the plan is to take this opportunity to sabotage the purchase and force a sale. A purchase, that I remind you, was voted for by the people of this town.

Without a camp operator, town revenue will decrease and it will create a situation where Sewataro becomes a short term cost crisis and the town is forced to sell the land. At best, a developer would increase town costs after putting enough housing there to overload the school, tiny fire station, and other infrastructure. Or perhaps an office building given the proximity to 117... Selling it will end up costing us more in the long term. A camp contract would end in 5 years but once it is sold, it cannot be undone and we have no control of what is done with the land. Sudbury town politics move slowly and we need some time to assess and come up with a plan, whatever it is. **Please allow the camp to continue to operate and do not allow a vocal minority to overturn the will of the majority of voters who voted to purchase this land.** The argument will be that it costs too much and that will only be true because of a poor decision to not allow the camp to continue to operate.

The camp is well run and is also used by many families in town. There already aren't enough childcare options. Is the town going to be able to offer a viable alternative for the Sudbury families that use Sewataro currently?

The camp model works. Why aren't we expanding it for other unused lands in town? At least Sewataro isn't idle.

Cheryl Budaj and Roman Woronowicz
152 Newbridge Road

Janie W. Dretler

April 8, 2022

Sudbury Select Board

Dear Select Board Members

I am writing to each of you to express my concern and opposition to entering into a multi-year extension of the Management Agreement for the Sewataro Camp Operator in advance of the upcoming Town Meeting.

The 2019 Town Meeting authorization to purchase the Liberty Ledge property intended to make the entire site a Town resource available to Town residents year round. The current Management Agreement and the Third Amendment to that Agreement which would extend the Management Agreement for an additional 5 years, does not accomplish that intention. In addition, there are two warrant articles to be debated at the upcoming Town Meeting that will be adversely impacted by the signing of an extension before Town Meeting. You and your fellow Select Board members must be committed to doing what is best for the Town in keeping with the Town's clear intentions. Extending the Management Agreement by 5 years with no way to expedite the implementation of a long range plan for the property is irresponsible and against the clear intent of the 2019 Town Meeting.

I urge you not to vote to extend the Management Agreement prior to Town Meeting and to seek input at the Town Meeting with respect to extending that Agreement. I also urge you to support the Town Meeting article that would retain an experienced land use consultant to prepare a comprehensive study of the Liberty Ledge property and would make possible the implementation of a best use strategy for the property as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Alan Bascom

14 Frost Lane, Sudbury

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SUDBURY, MA
2022 APR 11 A 10:12

From: [Shilpa Rastogi](#)
To: [Select Board](#); [Town Manager](#)
Subject: Vote YES to renew camp contract
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 10:23:57 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes -

—Please read this letter into public record —

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years. Currently the town does not have any plan to support Sewataro, maintain it or utilize it without the support of the camp.

Mr. Russo represented the town and worked to come up with a contract that is fair for the town residents. Mr. Russo negotiated the contract, surely he finds it acceptable and should vote YES. The Board as a whole should support this new contract by voting YES and renew the Sewataro contract for 5 years to both protect our investment in this property and respect the will of our voters.

The delay tactics have gone on too long and frankly it is unacceptable.

Thank you.
Shilpa Rastogi
56 Cudworth Lane
Sudbury MA

From: [Rachel Goodman](#)
To: [Select Board](#)
Subject: YES to renew operator contract for Sewataro
Date: Monday, April 11, 2022 7:37:00 PM

Dear Select Board and Town Manager Hayes -

—Please read this letter into public record —

I urge you to vote YES to renew the operator contract for Camp Sewataro for another 5 years. This will allow time for the town to conduct all needed usage studies and make appropriate recommendations while also ensuring property is kept up and profitable. Currently the town does not have any plan to support Sewataro, maintain it or utilize it without the support of the camp.

The Select Board entrusted Mr. Russo to represent the town's interest in working out a contract that is fair for the town and its residents. The Board should support this new contract by voting YES and renew the Sewataro contract for 5 years to both protect our investment in this property and respect the will of our voters.

On a more personal note, Camp Sewataro has been a pillar in this town for more than 60 years and has enriched the lives of so many children. It has also provided jobs to young adults, giving them a chance to mentor younger children and help expose them to new opportunities and foster friendships. It is a special place where campers have fun, develop and grow friendships, learn about themselves, explore, and build their self confidence. Extending this contract for 5 years is a win for the town and a win the campers, counselors, staff and community. I couldn't imagine having to tell all these children and adults that the town voted to shut down their summer home. My children have been going to Sewataro for 10 and 3 years respectively and it has been the one place where they can be themselves, feel good about who they are and feel a sense of belonging. They learn about kindness, friendship, acceptance and trust. They have grown up there and look forward to every summer with such excitement. Taking that away from them and all the other campers would be an immense loss.

Thank you.
Rachel Goodman
70 Firecut Lane

Sent from my iPhone