



August 29, 2018

Board of Directors  
Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce  
961 Main Street  
Berlin, NH 03570

Open letter to the Board of Directors of the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce

Greetings;

On July 31, 2018 I wrote an email to each of you describing why I feel that you have made a mistake by taking sides in the legal dispute between a group of Gorham residents and the Town of Gorham and the State of NH over the OHRV trailhead in their neighborhood. Since I felt that my letter to you would never see the light of day beyond your own computer screens, I also sent that letter to the local newspapers. To date, not a single one of you had the interest to individually answer my email to you. Instead, it appears that you had your Executive Director pen an answer back to me on behalf of the Board. It's disappointing that none of you are interested enough to communicate with me one on one. I will return the favor and simply offer this response as a letter to the editor rather than waste your time and mine sending another email to you.

The answer that I did get was wholly unsatisfactory in that it did not address a single issue that I raised in my letter. I'm frustrated that you duck behind "... the pending legal matter", as an excuse to not address or comment at all on the plight of the Crestwood Dr. and RT 2 neighborhoods. To not address, acknowledge or sympathize with them in any way indicates the true nature of this Chamber of Commerce. By your intervenor status you are taking sides and you are apparently perfectly happy with that decision. If fact you state this to be true with, "... The Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce is proud of the role that it has plays (sic) in helping a majority of our members". You make no mention at all of the residents that make up our towns. Is it really worth trampling on the rights of our neighborhoods and their residents for the "good" of a few businesses in town?

Growth of the local economy due to uncontrolled growth in one narrow section of recreation opportunities will likely be unsustainable. Even without proper study and data collection, a reasonable person can see that other sections of the economy are going



to suffer. But the ones who will suffer the most are the ones suffering now. It's incomprehensible to me that the chamber is willing it simply turn a blind eye to the situation of the local neighborhoods who are looking for relief and a simple return to the quiet lifestyles they used to be able to enjoy. Why has the chamber taken sides and ignored their pleas? Why is the chamber not taking a lead role in addressing this problem and finding a proper location for this trailhead?

The Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce no longer represents all the businesses in the region - perhaps it never did. It is now apparent that the chamber's philosophy is so in conflict with our own that we must terminate our businesses' affiliation with this chamber. To do otherwise, now knowing the true feelings and direction of the chamber, would be hypocritical.

Effective immediately we withdraw the membership of the Mt Washington Auto Road and Great Glen Trails in this chamber. Furthermore, the Glen House Hotel will not be joining this chamber. Please remove all listings, as well as all photographs we supplied for use on the chamber website and all other purposes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howie Wemyss", written in a cursive style.

Howie Wemyss, General Manager