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Homeowners: Proposed Marina Is Dangerous

Development Planned Near Keowee Key

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SALEM, S.C. -- The Friends of Lake Keowee Society is planning to file an appeal with an administrative law judge in an attempt to stop a proposed marina on Lake Keowee.

The proposed development called Palmetto Pointe is on a plot of land off Highway 130 near the gated community of Keowee Key.

The plan, as submitted to the Oconee County planning department, calls for a public marina with 50 permanent boat slips and 250 dry storage spaces. Developers are also hoping to build a lodge, restaurant and ship store there.

Some homeowners who live near by the proposed site say the cove can't handle the extra boat traffic. They believe the waterways are too narrow and that section of the lake isn't deep enough.

"I have personally seen over the years three boating accidents and a bunch of near-misses," said Jim Urove, who lives across the lake from where the development is being proposed.

Urove also worries about the added noise and traffic on Highway 130.

"There's nothing redeeming, as far as I'm concerned, about the location of this project," said Urove. "There are plenty of other places on this lake that are much more suitable."

Ben Turetzky, executive director of The Friends Of Lake Keowee, an organization of homeowners who keep on eye on what's built in the area, said he's worried about the environmental effects.

"Whatever oil or gasoline or brake fluid or dust from brakes, everything else that falls on the ground when it rains is going to wash into the lake," said Turetzky. "There are eight public access areas plus some commercial marinas on Lake Keowee; you come to virtually all of those before you get all the way up the river to this place."

Ray Fretwell, a managing partner in the development, said the marina will provide the public an affordable place to enjoy the lake. He said there are only a few places on the lake where a marina can be put and said that area is the right place.

"(The homeowners) are concerned about commercial development on the lake. They want it to remain residential. I can appreciate that. It's just like any project. You're not going to please everybody," said Fretwell.

The Friends Of Lake Keowee Society has 30 days to file an appeal.

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