

Wallace and Dodd Act to Save River Event

By MARGE WARD
DEEP RIVER — Deep River may have another popular event on its hands, to challenge the popularity of its annual muster.

A raft race held in Deep River Saturday attracted record crowds and 55 handmade rafts took off from the town dock on Saturday noon.

But, it almost didn't happen. Early Saturday morning, members of the United States Coast Guard arrived to

halt the festivities since a necessary permit had not been applied for 30 days prior to the event.

First Selectman Lorraine Wallace, on hand for the gala sail, took the Coast Guardsmen in tow, repaired to the town hall and called Congressman Chris Dodd. After telling him the problem, Dodd left a line open to her and within an hour and 15 minutes had the necessary clearance for the race and it went off on schedule.

Mrs. Wallace was perturbed, however, at a rumor floating about that the problem was caused by the selectmen's opposition to the race.

"Nothing," she declared firmly, "could be further from the truth. As a matter of fact, Tommy Lindner, the second selectman rode the Deep River entry and came in sixth."

At Monday's session of the selectmen, Mrs. Wallace did say, however, that more constables will be required next year since the event has grown in a few years from three or four rafts, to the number that took off on Saturday:

Mrs. Wallace also said that Cyrus Kissling, owner of Collections Unlimited, had been contacted about moving his vans from the lot behind the library and had promised to do so by this morning.

She also read a letter from the Health Systems Agency that reported Highland Hall in Essex is seeking to change its health facility from a 45-bed convalescent home to a 33-bed home for the aged.

Since the facility is moving to a smaller number of beds and a lower level of supervision, no public hearing is necessary, but anyone wishing to comment on the proposal may still do so.

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