

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Quakers take strong stance on Lake Davidson
Davidson Friends Meeting urges protection of “fragile ecosystem”**

(Davidson, NC) – Citing concerns over Lake Davidson’s “fragile ecosystem,” Davidson’s local Quaker Meeting has taken a strong stance on how it believes the lake should be overseen by the towns of Davidson and Mooresville.

A minute – or statement of belief – approved collectively by the Meeting on August 24 and sent to Mooresville and Davidson officials this week states that the Meeting’s members and attendees believe that “nearby construction and the use of powerful motorcraft have increased the pollution of Lake Davidson” and that “the potential for further degradation leads us to seek better care for this piece of the world.”

In the minute, the Meeting – a division of the Religious Society of Friends, also known as Quakers – endorses the recommendations of the Davidson Lands Conservancy to “preserve and develop the ecological and recreational value of Lake Davidson.”

The Conservancy recommends: Limitation to passive water recreation vehicles including canoes, kayaks, and sailboats, and other small boats powered by electric motors; permanent 200-foot wide natural buffers on all shoreline without existing development, with allowance for walking trails; public access points for watercraft (as described above) on both the north and south shores; and enforcement of lake regulations by the appropriate governmental agency in order to provide consistent, effective oversight.

“We urge a long-range plan for Lake Davidson to ensure that the lake will continue to be a healthy community resource for all,” states the minute.

Meeting members plan to enter the minute into the record at the next meeting of the working committee, which will be held on September 3 at the Charles Mack Citizen Center in Mooresville at 7 p.m.

For more information on the Davidson Friends Meeting, visit <http://davidson.quaker.org/>.
For more information on The Religious Society of Friends, visit <http://www.quaker.org/>.

Attached: Davidson Friends Meeting minute on Lake Davidson
Partial statement from the Davidson Lands Conservancy

To the Lake Davidson Working Committee, the Towns of Davidson and Mooresville, all public and private organizations with jurisdiction over Lake Davidson, and the citizens of North Carolina:

The Davidson Friends Meeting endorses the recommendations of the Davidson Lands Conservancy (appended) regarding the efforts to preserve and develop the ecological and recreational value of Lake Davidson. This endorsement arises from our experiences of the presence of God in our lives and our beliefs that grow from those experiences.

Participants in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) believe that living a life of faith includes taking care of the earth we all share. Nearby construction and the use of powerful motorcraft have increased the pollution of Lake Davidson. The potential for further degradation leads us to seek better care for this piece of the world. We urge a long-range plan for Lake Davidson to ensure that the lake will continue to be a healthy community resource for all.

We fear the destruction of the fragile ecosystem that is the basis for Lake Davidson's value. We seek a peaceful solution to conflicting desires regarding its use. We urge the communities surrounding Lake Davidson and their representatives to protect this environmental resource. We believe that the Conservancy's recommendations are the best way to provide this care and urge you to follow this guidance.

Paul Hultberg, Clerk
On behalf of Davidson Friends Meeting

Appended: partial preliminary statement from the Davidson Lands Conservancy:

“...This Lake has special potential for natural beauty and multiple public benefits, but is in immediate danger from water and noise pollution, runoff and over-use, and the destruction of trees and wildlife that we treasure. We have a vision of how Lake Davidson can be managed to maintain it as a place where people can enjoy natural surroundings and recreation in ways that are safe and sustainable. To realize this vision we recommend:

- 1) Limitation to passive water recreation vehicles including canoes, kayaks, and sailboats, and other small boats powered by electric motors;
- 2) Permanent 200-foot wide natural buffers on all shoreline without existing development, with allowance for walking trails;
- 3) Public access points for watercraft (as described above) on both the north and south shores;
- 4) Enforcement of lake regulations by the appropriate governmental agency in order to provide consistent, effective oversight.”