

March 9, 2025

To Whom it May Concern ME BPC,

As a neighbor of Ruth Graham, the passed resident of 11 Mechanic Street in Rockport, I am writing to the Maine Government BPC in anticipation of the March 14 meeting. I would like to thank you for your work to date to investigate the poisoning of the trees on Ruth's property. This has been, and continues to be, a great concern for Ruth's family and her neighbors. We are disturbed that an individual or individuals would trespass onto her property and apply toxic material to her land and our environment with the express selfish purpose of their own personal wants. That kind of behavior is deeply wrong and needs to be effectively punished and deterred. If the resolution is a small fine and no admission of guilt, where is the deterrence? Who would not see this as a risk worth taking if they were so inclined? At the time of this crime, Ruth was elderly and physically frail. She was unable to vigorously defend herself and was truly taken advantage of. At a minimum, the trees destroyed should be replaced and a meaningful penalty applied. All appropriate environmental remediation should also be part of the response. I would be most grateful if this message could be shared with the committee members in advance of your meeting.

Thank you most sincerely for your work and for your consideration of this matter.

Stephanie Lash

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