

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2010

9:00 a.m. – NH Fish and Game Headquarters

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; Glenn Normandeau, F&G; B. David Bryan; Jacquie Colburn, DES; Ken Gallager, OEP; Mark Gallagher, DOS; Brian Giles; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Joseph Norton; Mel Pfeifle; R. Andrew Robertson; Bob Spoerl, DRED; Matt Urban, DOT

Members Absent: Paul Blizzard; Rep. John Henson; Michael Lassonde, GCD; Ronald Poirier; Senator Deborah Reynolds

Audience Members: Richard Fink, NHFG; Jeff King, NHFG; Michael Pillsbury, DOT; Bill Janelle, DOT; Paul Goodwin, Watermark Marine Construction

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS – [Note: Text in bold denotes action items.]

1. Approval of the March 1, 2010 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Andy Robertson to accept the meeting minutes as written, seconded by Ken Gallager. The Board unanimously approved.

2. Intro of Jeff King, Statewide Public Boat Access Coordinator – Rick Fink

Jeff stated that he was formerly the IT Manager for NHFG. He also stated that he has more than 10 years experience in environmental consulting, water quality permitting and project management. Chairman Quarles then welcomed Jeff to the Board.

3. Expiring Terms of PWAAB Public Members – Tom Quarles

Many board members terms are due to expire on October 27, 2010. Tom asked those in attendance if they wished to be renewed. All those in attendance agreed to reappointment, and those not in attendance, will not be requested to be reappointed.

Tom will contact the Governor's office to get the process moving along.

Tom also requested that state department's 2009 Annual Reports be sent as soon as possible so they can be approved at the July meeting. At present, only the OEP report has been completed and circulated to the Board.

Tom also suggested that the September meeting be used for the field trip to access sites. **Rick and Jeff will work on a list of sites to be visited.**

Also, it was decided that the next meeting would be held on July 12th, not the 6th as previously stated. **Please make note of the date change.**

4. Harilla's Landing, Moultonborough – P. Goodwin, T. Quarles & M. Pillsbury

Paul Goodwin gave a brief update on the project. He began by stating that he has been working on this project for over 20 years. This site is the only state owned full-sized boat public access on Lake Winnepesaukee. Some of the project has been completed but there are several obstacles in the way of completion. One of the issues is that the Harilla's Landing Yacht Club's Clubhouse is built partially on property owned by the state. Also, at times the site is a free for all, with trailers, supplies and equipment left on-site all season, leading to issues that include parking and enforcement. One of the concepts discussed at a meeting last fall included commercial users leasing access, and rebuilding a wall that had crumbled leading to erosion on the site. Paul stated that, in his opinion, it would be impossible to solve the parking issues at this site without the purchase of additional land.

Ton Quarles stated that he is much more optimistic about a positive outcome for this access site. While there are certainly complications, if the land swap can be accomplished, the site could be properly designed and refurbished. Until the title issues associated with this project are cleared up, NHFG will not take ownership of the site from NHDOT.

Mike Pillsbury of NHDOT stated that basically there are four options available:

1. Harilla's Yacht Club can remove their building that is encroaching on NHDOT property.
2. A land swap of the two parcels could be completed.
3. The site could be made a non-commercial site.
4. The site could be sold outright to a private owner.

The parties involved need to determine what is in the best interest of the state. Boundaries must be known before any plans can be made. The property values of the two parcels are very similar, which would make things easier if a land swap is completed. Mike noted that Bill Janelle would be the point person on this project for NHDOT as it moves forward.

Paul Goodwin noted that one major complication could be the fact that according to NHDES some of the Harilla's Yacht Club docks currently in place are illegal, which could be a sticking point in the land swap. **Paul suggested that Tom speak to John Cronin, the attorney for the Yacht Club about this issue. Tom will follow up with John Cronin and DES.**

Director Normandeau stated that at this time he is not certain that the Department could even use this site where part of its use is commercial. He will check with federal aid to determine what the options are, i.e. subdivide, etc. should federal grant monies be used. The Director noted that he did not want to take over another Sunapee like situation where years are spent in litigation.

Tom noted that he would get the August 2005 meeting minutes to those involved at NHDOT, and that he would set up an "information only" meeting

of agencies and others involved at some point in the near future, just to ensure that all the players are on the same page.

Director Normandeau noted that possibly the biggest issue would be the lack of adequate parking on site: demand will be MUCH higher than availability, especially with the recent loss of access at Ames Farm on Winnepesaukee last year.

Paul Goodwin stated that his work would continue on the wetlands permit and that the pilings, stairs and boulder removal should be completed this year.

5. 2010 Legislative Tracking – Joe Goodnough

Tom Quarles questioned a new provision of SB450FN, in which the legislature is looking to take \$500,000 from the state boat access program to balance the general fund. Director Normandeau explained that these monies come from a \$5 charge on all boat registrations and as such are not considered to be sportsmen dollars, as are license sales monies. Therefore the legislature can take these monies if they so choose. Every state department has to cut their budget and F&G determined they could give this money back and not jeopardize the program. There is no expectation this will occur in the next state budget.

Joe Goodnough distributed a list of legislation relevant to the Board but due to lack of time, only one other bill was discussed. HB 1422 forming a study committee to study the creation of a department of natural resources passed both the House and Senate, and Joe suggested that PWAAB should ask to be represented on this committee. Joe will draft a short letter of request when necessary. [N.B. the language of the bill as passed has only legislators on this study committee - no public members.] **Ellen offered to reformat the list so that all bills can stay on the list, with the entire list in numeric order.**

6. F&G Project Matrix – Rick Fink

Rick and Jeff provided an updated matrix to the Board and noted that new information was indicated in red ink. Rick then reported the following:

- Suncook Lake, Barnstead: Lake Association looking to have boat launch built near cofferdam. Site visit with DES planned.
- Forest Lake, Winchester: Property is privately owned and is likely not feasible for a long term lease to allow us to refurbish the site.
- Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam: Negotiations are still ongoing with the landowner for improved parking.
- Nubanusit Lake, Hancock: The Town is apprehensive about a 30 year lease but has agreed to hold a public meeting. If the site is developed, parking will not be an issue, with 4 spots designated as wheelchair accessible and ample parking along the roadside.
- Barbadoes Pond, Dover: Site is complete with gate in place, and fence installation to be contracted.

- Ossipee Lake, Ossipee: Site has been transferred to NHFG and evaluation of work needed is ongoing.
- Ossipee River, Effingham: Transfer from DOT to F&G is complete. There are some concerns regarding water levels on site.
- Webster Lake, Franklin: A lease agreement is being discussed with the town.
- Connecticut River, Orford: Waiting for the town to provide design plans for dry hydrant.
- Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough: Open house to take place May 24, 2010.
- Newfound Lake, Bristol: FST moving forward with floating dock design.
- Stinson Lake, Rumney: Lake Association has invited NHFG to annual meeting in July. **Tom requested that Allen MacNeil be invited to this meeting as well.** Abutter issues are ongoing with attempts to reach abutter unsuccessful. There is a possible waiver of this requirement according to the DES wetlands rules.
- Turee Pond, Bow: NHDES denied wetlands permit. Ramp will be reconstructed at current location and orientation.
- Lake Umbagog, Cambridge: A request for a floating dock approval at this access site is slowly moving forward.

The following sites have been scheduled for construction in 2010:

- Connor Pond, Ossipee
- Purity Pond, Eaton
- Winnepesaukee River, Franklin
- Cedar Pond, Milan: Pavement only
- Turtle-town Pond, Concord: Pavement only
- Umbagog Lake, Cambridge: Ramp replacement
- Merrymeeting Lake, New Durham

22. Public Water Access Plan Review and Revision – Ken Gallager

Follow up from the first 21 lakes reviewed:

4. First Connecticut Lake – access adequate – **Andy will follow up with Joe Norton to verify ramp ownership**
5. Lake Francis – access adequate – water draw down causes boat launching issues – can the launch be extended to alleviate? Are there other possible fixes? How much of a problem is it really? **Jacque Colburn to follow up as site owned by DES**
10. Island Pond – Bob Spoerl confirmed access at Stickney Road in Atkinson – adequate boat access, needs beach/picnic access. **Ken will follow up on GPS coordinates for the site.** Site appears to be cartop only, **Ken to verify other access is public.**
11. Lovell Lake – DES leases beach access to the town – adequate boat access, needs beach/picnic access
21. Pine River Pond – DES does not own any land outside of the dam footprint. (The adjacent ramp is privately owned.) “Sawdust Cove” site is

undeveloped and unsigned – not a very good area for access, not really viable for development. Improve by signage only as a carry in access site?
Jacquie will follow up on access easement language.

Discussion of remaining lakes follows:

22. Pleasant Lake – access adequate for boating – **Ken to verify additional parking availability** – needs beach access (beach is residents only)
23. Province Lake – access adequate
24. Second Connecticut Lake – **Ken to verify with Joe Norton** – appears to be adequate boat access – **Andy noted additional cartop access at north end of lake, and will provide GPS coordinates to Ken** – No beach access
25. Silver Lake (Town of Madison) – need better boat access
26. Spofford Lake – **Tom Quarles to verify North beach access** – access adequate
27. Squam Lake – add SLA HQ ramp site to OEP database. – Lake needs additional boat ramp on northeast area of lake – try to get general public access to Sandwich and Holderness town beaches; **Jacquie thinks there is a town ramp in Sandwich or Moultonboro. Matt Urban will check to see if Bean Road/Squam Lake road site is state-owned**
28. Lake Sunapee – access will be adequate once the NHFG ramp is built at Wild Goose
29. Suncook Lake – Work in progress – unsure if adequate access – site visit needed – **Jacquie will verify location of coffer dam**

Andy and Brian provided the Board with an inventory of New Hampshire rivers, which will be reviewed at a future meeting. Tom noted that the Official List of Public Waters (Env-WR 900) is also available online, and while it does not list the water-bodies, it does list the criteria.

Old Business

Not reached

New Business

None

Public Comment – None at this time

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by B. David Bryan, and seconded by Andy Roberston. Board unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will take place on **July 12, 2010 at 9:00 am** at NH Fish and Game Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH.