

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2011 PWAAB Meeting and Field Trip

Members Present: Rick Fink, NHFG; Jeff King, NHFG; Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman; Jacquie Colburn, DES (Winnepesaukee River and Webster Lake only); Tracey Boisvert, OEP; B. David Bryan

Members Absent: Paul Blizzard; Mark Gallagher, DOS; Michael Lassonde, GCD; Joseph Norton; Ronald Poirier; Matt Urban, DOT; Mel Pfeifle; Andrew Robertson; Jayne Spalding; Bob Spoerl, DRED; Joseph Goodnough

[Note: Text in bold denotes action items.]

Members left the Fish & Game Headquarters at approximately 9:15 a.m. The weather was outstanding, sunny and comfortably warm. At each of the following sites that will be refurbished or constructed by Fish & Game, Rick and Jeff distributed plans for that work. The members proceeded to the following public access sites:

Winnepesaukee River, Northfield:

The Board revisited this trailer boat site, which it had reviewed before construction began on a previous field trip. All construction work was complete and the site has been turned back from F&G to DOT. **Jacquie Colburn noted and requested that additional trap rock needs to be placed, and existing trap rock replaced, on the eastern/northern edge of the ramp area.**

Webster Lake, Franklin:

The Board reviewed the planned Fish & Game reconstruction at this existing trailer boat site adjacent to the town beach on Route 11. A citizen who found out that we were from the State of New Hampshire complained about the lake's repeated poor water quality tests. Jacquie Colburn engaged the person in conversation and offered to follow up with her.

Newfound Lake, Bristol:

The Board toured the Fish & Game large lake access site adjacent to Wellington State Park. Rick Fink and Jeff King explained the problems with the existing permanent dock and discussed the planned construction of the floating dock and other improvements to this site.

Baker River, Plymouth:

The Board toured the Smith Road covered bridge site, which is a cartop site adjacent to this recently reconstructed bridge. Rick Fink, who did extensive work on the design and construction of the bridge in his prior employment, explained

many of the details of the old bridge and the replacement bridge which retains the old bridge's look and feel, but its construction meets all modern road and weight standards.

The Board looked at the access site as well, including the redone steps along the bank of the north side of the river that allow carrying and launching of small boats.

Stinson Lake, Rumney:

Following lunch in Plymouth, the Board traveled to Stinson Lake and reviewed the current Road to Public Waters trailer boat site that will be reconstructed by Fish & Game. The existing site is rundown, has very little parking and is difficult to use. The new site will still have limited parking but will solve the other problems and will be a great improvement overall.

Connecticut River, Orford:

This site was chosen to illustrate the problem that is occurring on many Connecticut River sites where seasonal deposits of siltation and debris have accumulated on boat access ramps and restricted or blocked access. Fish & Game has been frustrated in their attempts to get the necessary wetlands permits from DES to clear these ramps in any kind of prompt fashion. They mentioned that the State of Vermont on the other bank of the river has been clearing all their ramps without any such permits, even though New Hampshire owns both sides of the river and this work in Vermont also requires a New Hampshire permit.

There will be a full reconstruction of this trailer boat site by Fish & Game. Permeable pavers will be used in the approach areas to the ramp. A large parking area above the site will be installed with a walkaway connecting it to the ramp.

Mascoma Lake, Enfield:

The Board toured the two existing access sites on this lake. First was the DES-developed site at the dam at the western end of the lake. This is a full trailer boat ramp and is the most fully-developed of any DES access site, at least to the knowledge of the members present. These members wondered when and why DES developed this site.

The second site is also on Route 4A, about one-third down on the south shore next to the Enfield town beach. There is a large bridge that was under reconstruction in this area that made it difficult to assess the boat access site, as the site was closed for this construction.

Eagle Pond, Wilmot:

The Board viewed this carry-in cartop site on this small pond. The site is just off Route 4 and the adjacent rail trail. The construction will provide designated parking and eliminate the erosion problems at the site.

Merrimack River, Concord – Road to Public Waters Site:

Because we had a little extra time at the end of the day, Rick Fink showed us this site which is alongside W. Portsmouth Road just to the west of Exit 16 of Interstate 93. It provides cartop access to the north bank of the Merrimack River. The site is unimproved but has adequate roadside parking and an easy path to the water's edge. Most notable was the debris line and other evidence of the recent very high waters following Hurricane Irene in late August.