

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 7, 2016

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

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Gary Clark (general public); Jim Gallagher, DES; Ken Gallagher, OEP; Bill Gegas, DRED; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests)

Members Absent: B. David Bryan (coastal interests); Rep. Chris Christensen; Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Sen. Jeannie Forrester; Sen. Jerry Little; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boat interests); Rep. James Webb; VACANT, GCD; VACANT, Hunting Interests

Audience Members:

MEETING CONVENED

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

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

1. Approval of PWAAB minutes – January 4, 2016

A motion was made by Tom Quarles to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2016 meeting with minor edits, seconded by Michele Tremblay. The Board approved unanimously.

2. 2014 Annual Report - All

The 2014 Annual Report from DRED was reviewed by the Board. Ken Gallagher made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Jim Gallagher. The Board approved unanimously.

The cover letter for the complete compilation of the 2014 Annual PWAAB Report was written by Chairman Quarles and was reviewed by the Board. After minor edits, Joe Goodnough made a motion to approve, seconded by Jim Gallagher. The Board approved unanimously.

Fish & Game and DRED Mobile Apps

Garret also noted that hunters and anglers now have field information, maps and more at their fingertips using the official New Hampshire Fish & Wildlife Pocket Ranger® Smartphone App for iPhone and Android. Recently launched by New Hampshire Fish and Game Department in partnership with ParksByNature Network, this free, mobile app

provides both novice and seasoned outdoorsmen and women essential information on fishing, hunting, boating and wildlife watching in New Hampshire.

Powered by Pocket Ranger® technology, this official app serves as an interactive outdoor guide and delivers immediate access to species profiles, rules and regulations, and important permit and licensing details. The app provides plenty of other features to maximize your outdoor adventure:

- News, advisories, and weather alerts
- Social networking and photo sharing
- Cacheable map tiles for offline use
- Advanced GPS mapping features
- Friend Finder
- Built-in compass

You can also use the app to record trail distance and time elapsed; mark and photograph waypoints to keep track of wildlife sightings; and recall, post or share saved data.

The official New Hampshire Fish & Wildlife Pocket Ranger® Smartphone App is available on the App Store and Google Play. To download the app, visit:

www.wildnh.com/about/app.html.

Bill Gegas noted that the Department of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Parks and Recreation also has this app available for NH State Parks. The link for that app is: <http://www.pocketranger.com/apps/new-hampshire>. Bill could not say whether the Division would continue its contract with Parks by Nature, which expires this year. The new State Parks website is mobile friendly, essentially making the app unnecessary. The web managers were also finding it difficult to make sure that the app was kept up to date.

3. State Agencies Legislative Tracking

It was noted that the "Clean, Drain, Dry" program bill has been amended.

There are no bills relative to public access being followed by the NHFG.

Rebecca Martin from NHDOT emailed regarding the following bills that agency is following:

- LSR 2016-2491 relative to the definition and criteria for protection of in-stream flow – on the consent calendar
- LSR 2016-2669 relative to temporary seasonal docks – study committee, will be held over, unlikely to pass

Michele Tremblay reported briefly on the following bills:

- LSR 2016-2492 (HB-1595-FN) relative to the Rivers Management and Protection Program – consent calendar

- HB 1461 relative to Rivers Management and Protection Program instream flow

4. DES Meeting on Potential Changes to Dock and Boat Launch Rules: Garret Graaskamp

Garret reported that he had recently attended a meeting at DES to discuss potential changes to dock and boat launch construction rules. Darlene Forst of the DES Wetlands Bureau had gathered together various stakeholders to discuss potential rules changes regarding single family docks, boat ramps, beaches, etc. Draft rules should be available for review by July, in conjunction with the new proposed wetlands rules.

Garret G. attended this meeting and pointed out the numerous problems there would be with private boat ramps and launches. His sense is that the new rules will continue to not allow for private boat ramps.

5. Update on Nashua Area Access: Gene Porter

Gene Porter presented updates on several access issues in Nashua.

- The old railroad tie plant/Beazer East mitigation is a site where cleanup of a creosote plant near the river is to begin in the summer of 2016. The applicant is currently resisting the shore-side trail easement recommendation of the Lower Merrimack LAC.
- Greeley Park Ramp: The city is pushing DOT to confirm its previous determination that the access road railroad grade crossing remains public. The Conservation Commission and LMLAC support the city's efforts to upgrade the ramp with the cooperation of Fish & Game.
- Residences at Riverside Landing: The site plan has been approved. Some trees will be retained to provide a buffer for the view from the river. The ACOE is amenable to trail and cartop boat access over their levee, but action by the city is yet to be determined.
- Process Improvements needed? Gene believes there should be better mechanisms for acquiring protective and access easements along sensitive waterways. Perhaps sight lines to and from rivers should be displayed when submitting applications for shoreland project permits, at least along designated rivers.

6. Crotched Mountain's Adaptive Program: Tom Quarles

Chairman Quarles spoke briefly about Crotched Mountain Rehabilitation Center's adaptive program to provide swimming and boating access to Sunset Lake for the developmentally disabled.

7. NHFG Project Matrix Update – Garret Graaskamp

Garret briefly reviewed highlighted projects from the boating access matrix provided to attendees.

- Umbagog Lake, Cambridge: FHWA asked for cost effectiveness analysis, which was provided via NHDOT.
- Lake Winnepesaukee, Downing's Landing, Alton Bay: Fish and Game has decided to demolish the building at the site. Utility disconnects and demolition clearances almost complete. USFWS reviewing federal aid grant. Building abatement and demolition contracts are in final review, with work expected to begin in March.
- Connecticut River, Ashley Ferry, Claremont: DES comments regarding Wetlands Permit application received, NHFG response being prepared for submittal.
- Eagle Pond, Wilmot: Construction is tentatively scheduled for spring/summer 2016 as other project commitments allow.
- Hot Hole Pond, Concord: Fish and Game is creating a funding campaign to solicit donations to build pier.
- Ossipee Lake via Pine River, Ossipee: Construction has begun, with tree clearing taking place in January.

8. Public Water Access Plan Review/Revision – Andy Robertson, et al.

Further rivers inventory mapping and prioritization review was done as follows:

Ammonoosuc river: Additional information is needed to determine if access is adequate. Maps 1-5 all show informal access via roadside, inactive rail lines, pedestrian bridges, and recreational trails.

Ashuelot river: Access was previously deemed adequate, however there are four additions: **Map 2 should include the Cresson covered bridge, owned by the town of Swanzey, and the Homestead Woolen Mill dam site should remain. Map 1 should include the new DOT access for cartop recently added in Swanzey, and the covered bridge cartop site as well.**

Swift river: Access is deemed adequate. **Should a whitewater warning be added on the map?**

Souhegan river: Access deemed adequate.

Piscataquog river: Access deemed adequate, however, the following should be added: **cartop site at Lang state forest bridge; Abijah bridge cartop access (once ownership has been clarified with town); River Road in East Weare; ACOE Hopkinton Everett flood control area, Goffstown overlook at Rotary Park. There were several other sites noticed by the LAC but location information is required before they can be added to the map.**

Contoocook river: **The rail trail at the Route 123/202 crossing should be added to Map 6. The Monadnock paper mill cartop site in Bennington should be added to Map 5.** There is a nice stretch of river along Route 127 that is currently private, but should be considered a priority for public access for Map 2. **Tom Quarles and Ken Gallager will discuss other sites mentioned in the letter from the LAC.**

9. DES Beach Inventory and OEP Database – Tom Quarles

Discussion postponed due to time constraints.

Old Business

None at this time.

New Business

None at this time.

Public Comment

None at this time.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:06 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Gallagher, seconded by Gary Clark. The Board unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held on **Monday, May 2, 2016** at NHFG Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 at **9:00 a.m.**