

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 7, 2018

9:30 a.m. – Marine Patrol, 31 Dock Rd., Gilford, NH

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Timothy Dunleavy, DOS ; Rep. Chris Christensen; Gary Clark (general public); Jim Gallagher, DES; Ken Gallagher, OEP; Bill Gegas, DANCR; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; Michele Tremblay (river interests); Senator Ruth Ward; Paul Van Blarigan, GCD; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Ronald Sowa (hunting interests)

Members Absent: Dick Smith (fishing interests); Rep. Bob L’Heureux; B. David Bryan (coastal interests); Senator Dan Innis;); R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests)

Audience Members: Jason Smith, Chief, Inland Fisheries Division, NHFG; Ryan Aylesworth, Town of Enfield, Philip Miles, DOT ROW

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. He thanked Captain Dunleavy for hosting the meeting.

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

1. Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – March 1, 2018

Gary Clark asked to amend the March 1, 2018 minutes to reflect his attendance.

Michele Tremblay moved to approve the minutes as written, with the above amendment, and Joe Goodnough seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Chairman Quarles asked Jason Smith, NHFG, to provide an overview of the Department’s fish stocking policy.

Jason reported that public fishing access in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams means legal passage to any of these waters of the State by way of designated contiguous land owned or controlled by a state or federal agency, municipality or private citizens, assuring that all members of the public shall have reasonable access to and use of these waters for recreational purposes. The New Hampshire Fish & Game Department shall not stock any waters of the State with cultured trout unless reasonable public access is provided. If the type or status of access to a waterbody changes, in any way, stocking consideration, densities or management may be reevaluated at that time by Department personnel.

Chairman Quarles inquired about Horace Lake and its stocking status.

Jason reported that the stocking rate was very low for an impoundment of that size, however, the rate is reflective of what the access is. He reported that Horace Lake does have some access points, the dam & marsh area have some available parking & fishing opportunities.

Jason reported that the Department stocks approximately 300 lakes around the State. He further reported that the Department stocks approximately 35,000 landlocked salmon in Lake Winnepesaukee that could live 7, 8, 9 years on occasion.

He further reported that the Department was monitoring the salmon program and has shifted its focus on eel studies, which staff hopes will benefit salmon as well.

Mascoma Lake, DOT proposed land disposal – R. Martin

2. Representatives from the Town of Enfield were present at the meeting and provided an update on the status of the Mascoma Lake land proposal.

Ryan Aylesworth, Town Manager, Town of Enfield, reported that they are excited to be moving forward with the park proposal. He reported that voters approved the purchase of the property and the town is continuing to raise funds. He reported that there were still some things to be worked out, such as parking issues & fee structures.

Bill Gegas, Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, responded, "I would recommend the Iron Ranger, it's an electronic device that takes credit cards and would be the most cost effective for the Town. I also have information on federal grants that are available to assist with the costs."

Chairman Quarles moved to modify the PWWAB recommendation to DOT regarding the surplus land disposal that endorses a differential of charging non-residents for parking, which must be a reasonable amount, in the judgment of DOT & PWAAB, and doubling the existing non-resident fee, Gene Porter seconded the motion.

The Town inquired if the board would be okay with leaving the fee details to DOT & The Town of Enfield and would report back to the board.

Chairman Quarles withdrew the motion of doubling the current parking fee. He stated that he would be fine leaving the fee details to be worked out between DOT & The Town of Enfield, however, would still like to have future input.

Chairman Quarles moved to remove the recommendation that there be no discrimination between residents and non-residents, as it relates to parking, and that the details be negotiated between the Town of Enfield and DOT; and that they come before

PWAAB for approval, and if any changes arise, adhere to same process, Joe Goodnough seconded the motion. The board unanimously approved.

3. **2016 State Agencies Reports – Board votes**

Chairman Quarles reported that the e-mail he received indicated that reports for 2016 & 2017 were attached, however, that was not the case, it was just the 2016 report.

Gary Clark moved to approve the Governor's Commission on Disability 2016 Agency Report and Joe Goodnough seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Garret discussed some revisions to the 2016 PWAAB report per the following:

Page 3 – The map – 2019 & most up to date available on google earth.

Page 5 – Office of Energy & Planning (last sentence refers to board's process of review of the rivers). Status? Ongoing?

Joe requested that it be noted that the board spent considerable time researching river sites and was quite successful.

Garret corrected and confirmed some links specified in the reports and stated that he would get them distributed to the board.

Page 5 – states that the board meets every other month??

Chairman Quarles inquired with the board as to how they wished to proceed with the Town of Rindge to address the neglect of the site. He suggested that possibly writing a letter to the Selectmen of the Town of Rindge requesting a meeting and possibly extending an invitation to attend a PWAAB Meeting to speak to the subject would be a good start.

Rebecca recommended that the tone of the letter be an invitation to come to the meeting and speak to the issue.

Gene Porter felt that authorizing Chairman Quarles to write a letter on behalf of PWAAB to the Rindge Selectmen to address the neglect of the Rand Pond Boat Access Site was warranted.

Chairman Quarles reported that White Pond in Ossipee, NH, was in the same situation and the RTPW is in disrepair. He reported that a letter similar to the Town of Rindge would be appropriate as well.

Garret Graaskamp recommended that if the board was going to write a letter to put the emphasis on environmental issues, sediment, pollution, garbage, etc.

Representative Christensen moved to approve the 2016 Overall PWAAB Report as presented and Joe Goodnough seconded. The board unanimously approved.

4. 2017 State Agency Reports – Board Votes

Michele Tremblay moved to approve the DOS – Marine Patrol Report as presented and Joe Goodnough seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Bill Gegas moved to approve the Office of Strategic Initiatives Report as presented and Gene Porter seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Representative Christensen moved to approve the Fish & Game Report as presented and Ken Gallagher seconded. The board unanimously approved.

5. Pending Legislation and new wetlands rules

Chairman Quarles reported that the legislative session was almost over relative to wetland bills. Representative Christensen reported that HB-1810, establishing a commission to study the effectiveness of the current statutes related to the management of non-tidal public water ways and the construction or placement of structures within them was in interim study, with the hopes of combining the language with SB-119, relative to the length of docks on a water body and boat slips.

Chairman Quarles asked Representative Christensen to send an e-mail to the board with a status update.

Representative Christensen reported that SB-410-FN, establishing a commission to study creating a boat safe card, similar to the hike safe card, which would be a voluntary program, with 50% of proceeds going to the Search & Rescue Account and 50% going to Exotic Weeds & Species Control Account.

Chairman Quarles stated that he felt some of the proceeds should go to the Statewide Boat Access Program.

Chairman Quarles asked Michele Tremblay and Representative Christensen to keep the board apprised on the status of SB-410-FN.

6. Lake Sunapee – Wild Goose, Governor’s Commission and CORD – T. Quarles & Director Normandeau

Chairman Quarles reported that the Governor’s Commission to study the Wild Goose Site on Lake Sunapee would be meeting tomorrow, May 8, 2018.

Garret reported that he looked at a site off route 11, in Sunapee, where the parking was several hundred yards away from the ramp itself. He stated, "The logistics & geometry would make it very difficult to have an access site there."

Director Normandeau stated that it would be nice to have the support from the PWAAB for the Fish & Game Department to maintain control of the Wild Goose Site pending the identification of another adequate location.

Gene Porter moved that the PWAAB advise CORD (Commission on Resources & Development) that until an adequate alternative access site is identified on Lake Sunapee, that it remain under the control & management of the NH Fish & Game Department, not transferred to DANCR or any other state agency, Director Normandeau seconded the motion. The vote carried with, with 1 abstention (B. Gegas-DANCR) and 1 opposed (J. Goodnough-NHLA).

7. Fish and Game Boat Access Site Rules – Garret Graaskamp

Chairman Quarles inquired as to whether the power loading language was inserted into the boat access site rules. Garret confirmed that the language was incorporated into the rules and that the final rule package would go to JLCAR (Joint Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules), where there will be a hearing held on May 18, 2018, then, if approved, to Legislative Services, Division of Administrative Rules, to be put into effect.

8. NHFG Project Matrix Update – G. Graaskamp

Cornish - Had some ice damage over the winter, which destroyed the new signs & fencing that was put up, which will have to be replaced again.

Success Pond - Waiting for The Conservation Fund to come to an agreement on a much larger area in Success, then the Department can close on getting full control of current ramp. (??)

Turry Pond - On the work list, however, work will not start there until Downing's Landing & Ashley Ferry ramps are completed.

Umbagog – Department has built the docks for that access, they are seasonal docks, and will go in during the month of June.

Downing's Landing - Permits are currently under review by DES. The Department had a pre-application meeting with DES and they had no issues with the design F&G is proposing; the Town recently signed off on the project. The plan is to put in a coffer dam, in order to extend work into the winter months. It will have 26 trailered parking spaces and 2 car top spaces.

Eagle Pond – renewed the driveway permit and plan to address that late summer.

Gene Porter commented on what a nice access site Pine River was.

New Business

None at this time.

Old Business

These items were not discussed due to time constraints and are deferred until next meeting.

- River access review and prioritization
- DES Beach Inventory and OEP Database
- Lower Beech Pond, Tuftonboro right of way access – boulders removed?
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Public Comment

Bill Gegas, representing DANCR, reported that his agency would soon have a new Commissioner, therefore, he wasn't sure if that would affect his role serving on PWAAB, however, reported that he would keep the board updated.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Representative Christensen and seconded by Gene Porter. The Board unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is set for November 5, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., at Fish & Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH