



PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 4, 2019 MEETING MINUTES
N.H. FISH & GAME DEPARTMENT, 11 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Jim Gallagher, DES; Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Rebecca Martin DOT; Ken Gallagher, OSI; Bill Gegas, DNCR; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Gary Clark (general public); Michele Tremblay (river interests); David Bryan (coastal interests); Paul Van Blarigan, GCD; Rep. Chuck Grassie; Tom O'Brien, NH Lakes (sitting in for Kelly Buchanan).

Members Absent: Kelley Buchanan, NH Lakes, Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Rep. Roger Dontonville; Senator Ruth Ward; R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests).

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:11 a.m.

1. Chairman Quarles announced that there was a new member to the PWWAB and introduced Representative Chuck Grassie.

Representative Grassie reported that he is from Rochester, NH, worked as a Town Planner for 20 years, and served the towns of Alton, Raymond & Stratham. He reported that he currently serves on the House Resources, Recreation & Development Committee, and was appointed to this board by the Speaker of the House.

Chairman Quarles reported that he received an e-mail from Senator Sherman's assistant, indicating that Senator Sherman was removed from the PWAAB.

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

Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – May 20, 2019

Gene Porter made a motion to approve the May 20, 2019 minutes and David Bryan seconded. The motion carried with 1 abstention (T. O'Brien).

3. Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – September 20, 2019

Gary Clark made a motion to approve the September 20, 2019 minutes and Ken Gallagher seconded.

Chairman Quarles reported that the September 20, 2019 meeting consisted of a field trip. He reported that most sites visited require signage in order to be located by the general public. He further reported that the Department of Transportation sign shop provides the signs for installation on state roads, which is expected to happen within the next several months.

Chairman Quarles reported that the board toured the "middle" Suncook Lake boat ramp, but did not visit the outlet dam. Jim Gallagher reported that DES leases the dam property to the Town of Barnstead for recreation. He reported that people do use the site to launch cartop boats, however, it's not a formal ramp. He reported that parking was very limited.

Garret Graaskamp provided an update on Downing's Landing on Alton Bay, Lake Winnepesaukee. He reported that there were some set-backs, as the contractor discovered wood materials related to wayward sawmill logs and cribbing in the lake that requires removal before proceeding, and as a result the coffer dam was not able to be installed. This has delayed the ramp construction into 2020 and it may not be completed until after the boating season. He discussed parking improvement plans, portable toilets being available at the site, and the installation of a stabilization wall along the shoreline, south of the ramp, to assist with erosion issues along the bank.

Lengthy discussion took place relative to the potential need for summer staff to monitor weekend access at the site. In conclusion, the board thought it was a good idea, however, the details and monetary issues would have to be worked out. Chairman Quarles asked Garret to inquire further with DNCR about their protocols and with Director Normandeau and to report back to the board. Garret agreed to do so as time permits.

Further discussion ensued relative to the sites visited on the September 20, 2019 field trip. Chairman Quarles provided an overview of each site the board visited in the September 20, 2019 PWAAB field trip minutes.

At this time, a vote was taken and the motion to approve the September 20,2019 meeting minutes carried with 1 abstention (M. Tremblay).

4. Pending Legislation

*HB 1810- relative to a Study Commission. Chairman Quarles reported that this bill & HB 645- DES Dock registration were closely related. He reported that the Study Commission was extended until 2020. He reported that Captain Dunleavey & Kelly Buchanan both serve on that Commission.

*HB 645- Dock registration bill. Chairman Quarles reported that this bill is being combined/addressed with HB 1810. It was vetoed by the Governor.

*HB 137 – relative to wake boats. Chairman Quarles reported that this is now a Study Commission.

*HB 188 – relative to the definition of no wake zone. Chairman Quarles reported that this has passed and been signed by the Governor.

*HB 324 – relative to operation of personal water craft around the marsh lands or flats in Hampton/Seabrook estuary. Chairman Quarles reported that this has passed and been signed by the Governor.

*HB 668 – relative to heating, agitating or other devices in public waters. Chairman Quarles reported that this has passed and been signed by the Governor.

*SB 324-FN – establishing the position of director of the office of the outdoor recreation industry development, in the department of business and economic affairs. Bill Gegas reported that this bill did not pass, but funds we found to create the position. However, the position has not been filled yet. He reported that there would be more discussion between DNCR & DBEA, prior to hiring this person.

Discussion took place on the following upcoming 2020 legislation:

LSR – 231 – Prime Sponsor: Rep. Murphy, relative to watercraft around marshlands.

HB – 2180 – Prime Sponsor: Rep. John MacDonald, relative to seasonal platforms on public waters of the State.

SB – 2736 – Prime Sponsor: Rep. Martha Fuller Clark, relative to shoreland water quality.

SB – 2756 – Prime Sponsor: Sen. Watters, relative to establishing the coastal program administered by DES.

SB – 2787 – Prime Sponsor: Sen. Watters, relative to establishing a surcharge on certain saltwater licenses and establishing a fund for derelict fishing gear and coastal cleanup.

SB – 2967 – Prime Sponsor: Sen. D’Allesandro, relative to notifications to the river coordinator of state agency actions affecting rivers.

Tom O’Brien reported that NH Lakes has some legislation, however, it has not been assigned a number yet, relative to enhancing vegetation in the shoreland buffer from 50 to 100 feet behind the high water mark.

5. 2018 Annual Reports

DES – Chairman Quarles inquired whether DES could provide a presentation relative to cyanobacteria and the Beach Monitoring Program at the January 6, 2020 PWAAB Meeting. Jim Gallagher agreed to arrange that.

Gene porter moved to approve the DES report as presented and Gary Clark seconded. The board unanimously approved.

F&G – Chairman Quarles had a few questions relative to the report, one being relative to the lake host program and what particular lakes lost “Lake Host” coverage? Garrett reported that he would obtain that information and report back to the board. Tom O’Brien reported that NH Lakes Association would be happy to supply the board with updated Lake Host information and will forward it to the Chairman for distribution.

Jim Gallagher moved to approve the F&G report as presented and Gene Porter seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Marine Patrol – Michele Tremblay moved to approve the Marine Patrol report as presented and Gene Porter seconded. The board unanimously approved.

DNCR – Bill Gegas reported that work has not commenced on the following projects listed in the report: Lincoln, Littleton, Windham & Franklin. Chairman Quarles inquired as to whether the board could get an update on the proposed whitewater park project in Franklin, NH. He asked that Bill provide him with the proper contact information for the City of Franklin so he could invite the group to the January 6, 2020 PWAAB meeting to provide an update. Bill responded that he would get that information to Chairman Quarles.

The membership approved the DNCR annual report unanimously without abstention.

6. Nashua River – downtown access plans – Gene Porter

Mr. Porter reviewed the conceptual plans to develop the waterfront along the Nashua River as reported in the October 30 issue of the Manchester Union Leader. The conceptual design to be considered by the Board of Aldermen includes a public boat launch for kayaks and floating courtesy boarding dock among other public recreation amenities and lighting, landscaping and shoreline restoration objectives.

7. CT River, DOT's Hinsdale/Brattleboro project – R. Martin

Deferred to next meeting.

8. Fish and Game site development matrix – Garret Graaskamp

Mr. Graaskamp reviewed status updates of the boat access projects in the queue for development.

- a) Merrill Park, Hudson: The Department is working with the Town of Hudson to develop an investigation plan to determine appropriate options for developing a ramp facility at this property. There are known asbestos materials on some portions of the property.
- b) Rust Pond, Wolfeboro: A small cartop access point exists along route 28 to this pond. It is not owned by NHFG. The Town and the abutter have been advised to settle the ownership dispute before asking NHFG to consider taking control of the site for public access. The site has some limitations so it is not clear that a formal public access can be maintained at this location.
- c) Success Pond, Success Township: The NH Attorney General is evaluating the rights and needs for the public to use Success Pond Road and ancillary travel ways to reach the boat access lot (i.e., the "Fish and Game Lot.") as defined in the deeds and easements.
- d) Mill Creek Farm (a.k.a. Emery Farm), Great Bay, Stratham: This property was recently acquired through an estate bequest that provides for conservation and public boat access opportunities. Overall evaluation is in the very preliminary stages.
- e) Downing's Landing (Lake Winnepesaukee), Alton: During installation of the coffer dam this past September, wood obstructions of various origins were encountered, which forced postponement of ramp construction into 2020. The project will have to be rebid.

9. Rocky Pond, Loudon – Garret Graaskamp & R. Martin

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time and are deferred until next meeting.

10. Roads to Public Waters – orphaned sites project– T. Quarles, K. Gallagher & G. Graaskamp

This item was not discussed due to a lack of time and are deferred until next meeting.

Old Business

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

- River Access review & prioritization.
- DES beach inventory and OEP database.
- Franklin proposed whitewater park – Winnepesaukee River.

Public Comment

No comments heard.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:50 a.m.

Next Meeting

Chairman Quarles thanked everyone for coming and announced that the next PWAAB meeting was scheduled for January 6, 2020, at the NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301, in the East & West conference rooms at 9:00 a.m.