



PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 5, 2018 MEETING MINUTES

9:32 a.m. – NHFG, 11 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Timothy Dunleavy, DOS ; Gary Clark (general public); Ken Gallagher, OEP; Bill Gegas, DANCR; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; Paul Van Blarigan, GCD; Gene Porter (power boat interests).

Members Absent: Rep. Chris Christensen; Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Jim Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Gallagher, DES; Dick Smith (fishing interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests); Senator Ruth Ward; Rep. Bob L'Heureux; B. David Bryan (coastal interests); Senator Dan Innis;); R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests)

Audience Members: Tom O'Brien, President, NH Lakes Association.

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Chairman Quarles recognized the recent passing of Ronald Sowa, who represented hunting interests on the PWAAB for approximately 2 years. He extended his condolences to the family on behalf of the Board and & thanked them for his contributions.

In addition, Chairman Quarles reported that he recently read an article in the Union Leader relative RSA: 15-a (The requirement for Board & Commission Representatives/Designees to file a Statement of Financial Interests with the Secretary of State annually. He distributed copies of the form to the Board and recommended that members submit this annually in January for the upcoming year.

Tanya offered to distribute copies of the Statement of Financial Interests to the Board at the January meeting and collect them at the end of the meeting for submission to the Secretary of State's Office prior to the deadline.

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

1. **Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – May 7, 2018**

Gene Porter moved to approve the minutes as written, with the below clarification requested by Bill Gegas, on page 2, 3rd paragraph, and Ken Gallagher seconded. The Board unanimously approved.

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

2. **2017 State Agencies Reports – Board votes**

Chairman Quarles reported that the only reports left to approve were DES & DOT. He asked that those agency representatives do their best to have those ready to review at the next PWAAB Meeting.

Gary Clark moved to approve the 2017 DRED/DANCR Annual Report as submitted and Gene Porter seconded. The board unanimously approved.

3. **Pending Legislation and new wetland rules**

Chairman Quarles reported that he received an e-mail from Representative Christiansen indicating that he would not be running for State Representative at this time, therefore, would no longer be serving on PWAAB.

Chairman Quarles reminded the Board that the Senate President and Speaker of the House are the ones responsible for appointing new members to the Board and would most likely do so in the near future.

He reported that Representative Christiansen provided him with an update on SB-119, as follows, relative to lengths of docks on a waterbody & boat slips. Representative Christiansen reported that the bill went to a Committee of Conference, where the House approved the Committee of Conference Report, however, it failed in the Senate, and is now dead.

Chairman Quarles invited Tom O'Brien, President, Lakes Association, to speak to his legislative knowledge relative to the details of SB-119 and to discuss the letter to the PWAAB from the NH Lakes Association, as it relates to their pending & still in development, legislative priorities.

Tom updated the Board on SB-119 and reported that the bill morphed into 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, with the intent of combining the language of SB-119, relative to the length of docks on a water body and boat slips. Tom reported that the committee met twice, with no quorum.

Tom informed the Board that the NH Lakes Association were presently pursuing bills in four areas, each of which is intended to help keep New Hampshire's lakes clean and healthy for generations to come. The four areas were as follows:

- 1.) An aquatic invasive species (AIS) sticker program for boats registered in other states and using NH inland waters, similar to the "Preserve Maine Waters" sticker program designed to increase funding for the prevention and management of AIS.
- 2.) Enabling legislation that would allow public boat access facility owners (such as state agencies and municipalities) to require that boaters utilize the technology made available to them at these areas (garden hose, cleaning tools, decontamination unit) for the purposes of preventing the spread of AIS.
- 3.) A Commission to study the effects of wake boats on the spread of aquatic invasive species, the safety of swimmers and other boaters, and on shoreline erosion (LSR 2019-0065).
- 4.) Possible modifications to the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act to improve the vegetation standards and the corresponding functionality of woodland buffers to effectively mitigate polluted runoff from entering adjacent waters.

Tom further reported that he has heard that paddler groups were looking for dialogue on ways to start conversations on how to be supportive of public access. He felt that rather than doing so by means of legislative service requests, having open discussions on the topic would be a good way to get the conversation started.

Captain DunLeavy responded, "I agree with Tom, as significant money is spent on paddler rescues. They definitely benefit from F&G & Marine Patrol."

Tom thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak before the Board. He reminded the Board that he would be happy to have further discussion on any of the above legislative priorities, as well as engage in conversation that may lead to improved mutual understanding about threats to the health & future of our lakes and possible joint solutions to addressing them.

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

Chairman Quarles reported that the CORD (Commission on Resources & Development) would be meeting on Thursday, November 8, 2018. He reported the Commission took a great deal of comment at the July meeting. He reported the next meeting’s purpose was to allow only 2 agencies (F&G & DANCR) to speak to the subject.

In addition, he further reported that Dick Smith, PWWAB member, recently attended a Sporting Club Meeting, where Governor Sununu was present and he and many others expressed their dissatisfaction with the status and outcome of the Wild Goose Boat Access Proposal.

Chairman Quarles reminded the Board of the following position they recently took relative to the Wild Goose Boat Access Site:

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).

Chairman Quarles informed the Board of an article in the “E-Ticker News” out of the Claremont, NH, area, reporting on the disappointment by Wild Goose supporters on the denial of the public boat access site on Lake Sunapee. The article reported that residents still remain hopeful.

Gene Porter inquired as to whether what he heard was true relative to the Governor being satisfied with the NHFG Department remaining in possession of the Wild Goose site for a period of time.

Chairman Quarles confirmed, “Yes”, that was true. He reported that it was recommended that the Lake Sunapee Protective Association work together with the Fish & Game Department for a period of 2 years, to find an alternative, suitable site, and if none found, the Governor would support revisiting the Wild Goose Boat Access Site.

Further, Garret Graaskamp, stated, "No alternative sites were suitable for a variety of reasons. If the Lakes Sunapee Protective Association has an alternative site in mind, I would be happy to look at it."

5. Lower Merrimack River Access – G. Porter

Gene Porter reported that a few years ago PWAAB declared the Lower Merrimack River as one of the largest navigable bodies of water and recommended that it be top priority to obtain public access.

He reported that the Town of Litchfield has completed an access Road on Town own Land, with a parking area and paved walk way down to the river for car top access. He reported that there was a big sign on the main road by the Litchfield Library that reads "Residents Only". He stated, "It has a very nice looking appearance, however, I feel that the parking accommodations are further away than desired."

Chairman Quarles stated, "I'm shocked & disappointed to hear it is residents only. This project was discussed with the board and that was not discussed." Chairman Quarles inquired as to whether Gene protested their decision. Gene reported that he did and was told that it was Town money, Town land, and those were the conditions for the Conservation Commission's approval.

Chairman Quarles asked that Gene please relay the Board's disappointment that the property is classified as "residents only" and is not open to the public to launch a boat or kayak.

Gene further reported after holding a public hearing, The Greeley Park Ramp preliminary design went to the Department of Public Works and is still in the approval process, waiting to move forward. The project will consist of a shortened access road through Greeley Park, with a new ramp surface, which will go further out into the river, along with parking for 12 vehicles & trailers and 12 car top spaces. The target completion date is September of 2019.

6. NHFG Project Matrix Update – G. Graaskamp

Garret Graaskamp reported that he distributed a copy of the matrix to all. He reported that not much had changed to the matrix since the May Meeting. He reported that efforts were now focused on Downing's Landing.

Downing's Landing status - 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. The site will have 26 trailered parking spaces and 2 car top spaces.

Garrett reviewed the following from the matrix:

Cornish Cartop Ramp-CT River-Cornish, NH – In March of 2018, winter rain & ice destroyed the new signage and fencing. Repair of the site has been added to the refurbishment list.

Eagle Pond – Wilmot, NH – The cartop upgrade construction was completed in October of 2018.

Success Pond – Success, NH – In November of 2018, The Conservation Fund negotiated an easement with the Dillon Family to cover the southern half of Success Pond. This opens the opportunity to establish a public road to Success Pond. The easement is held by DANCR.

Turee Pond – Bow, NH – Revisit the opportunity to upgrade ramp after Downing's Landing is underway.

Ashley Ferry Ramp – CT River-Claumont, NH –This project is on hold until Downing's Landing is underway.

Umbagog Lake – Cambridge –In June of 2018, the Dock infrastructure was constructed and the docks installed. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Coos County Personnel, will remove the docks soon for winter storage.

Hot Hole Pond – Concord, NH – A source of funding is still needed to complete the fishing pier.

7. Roads to Public Waters – orphaned sites project.

Garrett Graaskamp reported that any future acquisitions will have to be cost effective.

Chairman Quarles reported that the Board is in the process of accessing orphaned sites to determine their importance and whether they require addressing to obtain public access.

Chairman Quarles reported that Ken Gallagher & Garrett Graaskamp would continue to review the files, as they relate to roads to public waters and will update the spreadsheet prior the next meeting in January.

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 has a new Commissioner, Sarah Steward.

Adjournment

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

Next Meeting

Chairman Quarles thanked everyone for coming and reported that the next meeting is set for January 7, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., at Fish & Game HQ, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH