

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 13, 2017

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

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); B. David Bryan (coastal interests); Gary Clark (general public); Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Jim Gallagher, DES; Ken Gallagher, OEP; Bill Gegas, DRED; Joseph Goodnough, NHLA; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Rep. Bob L’Heureux; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; Dick Smith (fishing interests); Paul Van Blarigan, GCD

Members Absent: Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Senator Dan Innis; Gene Porter (power boat interests); R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests); Senator Ruth Ward; Rep. James Webb; Hunting Interests (position vacant)

Audience Members: Ron Sowa, potential Hunting Interest Board Member

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**MEETING CONVENED**

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

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

**1. Approval of PWAAB minutes – January 9, 2017**

Ken Gallagher noted that Senate members should not technically be listed as absent as they had not yet taken office, so they were stricken from the minutes for January. A motion was made by Joe Goodnough to approve the minutes for January 9, 2017 with minor edits, seconded by Ken Gallagher. The Board approved unanimously.

**2. Members with Expiring Terms, Reappointments and Vacant Positions**

Chairman Quarles noted that there is still a vacant position for hunting interests. Mr. Ron Sowa, a possible member with that interest is here today to observe.

Joe Goodnough has submitted his paperwork and is awaiting approval.

B. David Bryan has been reappointed for a three year term as of March 8, 2017.

Dick Smith is preparing to send his paperwork soon.

In addition, Chairman Quarles reported that Representative Bob L’Heureux has recently rejoined the Board after a 10 plus year hiatus. Bob now joins the Board as the Representative from the House Fish, Game and Marine Resources committee. Welcome back Bob!

### **3. Potential Hunting Interests Representative**

Chairman Quarles had contacted the NH Wildlife Federation regarding the vacant hunting interest position and received a response from Ron Sowa who is in attendance today to determine if he would like to fill the position. Ron is on the Wildlife Federation Board. Ron is a NH hunting and fishing guide and will be submitting his paperwork for appointment soon.

### **3B. Legislative Issues**

This is a late addition to the agenda. Chairman Quarles is requesting that state agency representatives (or others) determine if any of the items they are currently following legislatively would be of interest to the Board.

Joe Goodnough reported on a bill that revises dock length to a possible 100 feet to allow for low water situations. Captain Dunleavy reported on a related bill that looks to form a study committee to look at permitting of seasonal docks.

If anyone knows of any additional legislation pending, please notify the chairman as soon as possible and be prepared to discuss at the next meeting. Thank you!

### **4. State Agency Annual Reports for 2015**

Marine Patrol – It was noted that, according to a recent US Coast Guard report, NH was safest in the nation in boating fatalities for 2010 to 2014. It is believed this is in large part due to NH's mandatory boater education program. A motion was made by Gary Clark to approve as submitted, seconded by Jim Gallagher. The Board unanimously approved.

Governor's Commission on Disability – Chairman Quarles requested that language for the 2017 report note that the Chairman of the Governor's Commission, Paul Van Blarigan, is their delegated representative to the PWAAB. A motion was made by Ken Gallagher to approve as submitted, seconded by Joe Goodnough. The Board unanimously approved.

Environmental Services – Chairman Quarles asked for clarification of a few items. **Jim Gallagher will make minor edits to the report to be redistributed.** A motion was made by Captain Dunleavy to approve as edited, seconded by Bill Gegas. The Board unanimously approved.

Resources and Economic Development – Bill included with his report, before and after pictures of several improvements made in 2015, which included North Hampton State Beach, Forest Lake State Park, and Jericho Mountain State Park. A motion was made by Joe Goodnough to approve as submitted, seconded by Ken Gallagher. The Board unanimously approved.

Office of Energy and Planning – A motion was made by Jim Gallagher to approve as submitted, seconded by Gary Clark. The Board unanimously approved.

**Chairman Quarles will put together the PWAAB cover report for the 2015 Annual Report for approval at the May meeting.**

**All agencies should also begin preparation of their 2016 Annual Reports so they can be reviewed beginning with the May meeting if possible.**

**5. Rand Pond, Goshen – Joe Goodnough**

Joe Goodnough presented briefly regarding ramp improvements at this RTPW site. After several letters from NHFG, the PWAAB, and calls from Joe Goodnough over a period of a few years, the Town of Goshen finally improved the ramp. There is a large campground next to the ramp which should be required to mitigate its runoff, as it is likely causing the erosion damage to the ramp.

**6. Greeley Park, Nashua – Bill Gegas**

NHDOT provided an order stipulating that the railroad crossing at Hills Ferry Road is a public crossing, allowing this project to move forward. Bill Gegas reported that the LWCF grant from the National Park Service should approve funding for this project by September in the amount of \$200,000.00 which will need to be met by equal funds from the City of Nashua

**7. Horseshoe Pond, Merrimack – Garret Graaskamp**

The Town of Merrimack had asked for the closure of the RTPW boat ramp for this water body. Garret presented to the Board briefly regarding the worsening milfoil problem, probably due to the reduction in the use of D24 herbicide as a means of control. As this pond is cut off from the river or any other fresh water sources, it is more than likely that this is simply the result of the process of eutrophication, which is the natural order of things. Closing this state boat ramp is prohibited by statute (RSA 271:20) and would not solve the issue in any case.

**8. Nubanusit Lake, Hancock – Dick Smith**

Dick Smith noted that the DES permit to allow for the removal of rocks near the ramp has expired, so the Town will need to reapply. There is no signage attempting to restrict this RTPW site to residents only. **Dick Smith will follow up with DOT regarding signage that is needed on State Route 123 to let the public know the ramp is there. Dick will also follow up with the Town regarding parking for handicap access at this site as well.**

**9. Roads to Public Waters – Orphaned Sites Project – Tom Quarles**

Chairman Quarles reported that he would like to look at RTPW sites that have been "orphaned" meaning those sites that have not been brought into the NHFG state-wide boat access program and are restricted and/or are not being maintained by the Town (which has their maintenance responsibility). Prior to the meeting, a spreadsheet of all possible

such sites, based on information and records from NHFG, DOT and OEP was distributed. There are 243 entries on this spreadsheet (with most sites listed twice). 49 unique entries are for sites that F&G have taken over and operates. That leaves about 95 remaining RTPW sites for the Board to investigate. A general introductory discussion ensued with explanations from Garret G. and Ken Gallagher concerning their source information and suggestions for further analysis and recommendations. Most sites have files that document the road layout process. The Board also needs to be concerned about sites for which there are no records at all. At this time there appear to be approximately 10 such sites. It appears that not all NHFG files/spreadsheet are in the OEP database so those two databases will need to be matched.

**Chairman Quarles is asking anyone familiar with any of these sites on the spreadsheet to please bring any information they have to the next meeting. Garret will update the spreadsheet indicating which sites, if any, are stocked with fish by NHFG, as they could become priority sites.**

#### **10. NHFG Project Matrix Update – G. Graaskamp**

Garret provided attendees with the project matrix and very briefly discussed changes. Below are the projects with changes listed on the matrix.

- Merrimack River, Greeley Park, Nashua: The City of Nashua has decided to move forward unilaterally with this project using LWCF funding.
- Success Pond, Success: The Conservation Fund and NHFG are negotiating with land owners for land that includes the existing boat ramp parcel.
- Lake Sunapee, Newbury: The FY 18-19 Capital Budget appropriation for this project is working its way through the Legislature.
- Winnepesaukee (Downing's Landing), Alton Bay: Miller Engineering has scheduled with barge company to drill "water-side" geotechnical borehole after ice out in April.
- Ossipee Lake (via Pine River), Ossipee: The work will be completed in April and May so the trailered boat ramp will be open by Memorial Day. Final landscaping will be completed in June.

**Chairman Quarles requested Garret send Fish and Game's public access site rules to Board members for review. They are due for updating and expire in 2018.**

#### **11. Non-Motorized Boaters' Failure to Fund Access Sites**

Captain Dunleavy reported that nationally there have been issues due to the increase in paddlers who currently do not pay for the use of almost all federally or state-funded boat access sites. He further questioned whether NHFG had given any consideration to allocating money to trailer sites rather than cartop-only sites, in order to send a message that paddlers need to contribute. Chairman Quarles noted that the issue of the practicality

of a program that works to have this population contribute their fair share has been troublesome. Bill Gegas noted that in his experience, the need for safety and maintenance often go hand in hand.

Paddle boating (stand up and kayak) is becoming explosively popular. Many of these users do not wear personal floatation devices so education is needed for this population. Captain Dunleavy noted that there is a FREE Paddlers safety course on the Department of Safety website here: <http://www.boaterexam.com/paddling/>. This course is generic rather than specific to NH, but promotion of this course could help to further improve the safety of the paddling community. **NHFG and NHLA will promote this course as weather warms.**

### **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?

### **Public Comment**

None at this time.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Clark and seconded by B. David Bryan. The Board unanimously approved.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is set for **Monday, May 1, 2017** and will be held at NHFG Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 beginning at **9:00 a.m.**