



PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD
JANUARY 6, 2020 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 Gallager, OSI; Bill Gegas, DNCR; Garret Graaskamp, NHFG; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Gary Clark (general public); Rep. Roger Dontonville; Paul Van Blarigan, GCD; Tom O'Brien, NH Lakes (sitting in for Kelly Buchanan).

Members Absent: Michele Tremblay (river interests); David Bryan (coastal interests); Rep. Chuck Grassie; Kelley Buchanan, NH Lakes, Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Senator Ruth Ward; R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests).

Guests: Marty Parichand, Executive Director, Mill City Park, Franklin, NH.
Trent Zanes, P.E., Roadway Section Design Group Leader, DOT.

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

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

1. Approval of PWAAB Meeting Minutes – November 4, 2019
Gene Porter made a motion to approve the November 4, 2019 minutes and Paul Van Blarigan seconded. The board unanimously approved.

2. Franklin proposed whitewater park – Winnepesaukee River
Marty Parichand, Executive Director, Mill City Park, Franklin, NH, gave an overview of the Franklin proposed whitewater park project to the Board. He reported that when most people hear about the non-profit Mill City Park, an organization working to bring a whitewater park to Franklin, they think about paddlers on the Winnepesaukee River, which City officials hope will draw whitewater enthusiasts from across New England. He reported that the organization has been working on a master plan for the park and river for approximately six months, funded in part by a \$5,000 grant from The Capital Regional Development Council and put together by Resilience Planning & Design in Plymouth, NH.

He reported that the park is an 11-acre space, located south of the railroad that used to run through Franklin's Trestle Bridge and Sulphite Bridge, known as the "upside down covered bridge." The plans call for a community garden, pavilion, two public bathrooms, picnic areas, educational areas, hiking trails, parking area, climbing wall and a mountain bike pump track system. He reported that at some point he envisions a tent camping area, and a path that connects the existing Winnepesaukee River Trail on the other side of the river using the historic bridges, which are now unsafe to walk on. He stated, "It will be the thread that ties the whole project together." He further reported that the organization was also trying to be as environmentally conscientious as possible by having all structures on site utilize solar or other renewable energy power sources. He anticipates in the future potentially building & renting a few cabins on site to offset some of the managerial park fees.

In 2019, Mill City Park started clearing for the access road and installing the electrical and plumbing necessary for the bathhouses. That work is funded by a \$200,000 grant from the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund and \$200,000 in donations. He reported that in the summer of 2020, work will begin on the park's timber-frame pavilion.

In closing, Marty reported that once the project is completed it will be the first whitewater park/outdoor recreation area in all the Northeast.

Chairman Quarles thanked him for the presentation and invited him back to a future meeting to provide an update for the Board. (following the meeting Garret G. distributed Mr. Parichand's Powerpoint electronically)

4. (This item was heard out of sequence).

CT River, DOT's Hinsdale/Brattleboro Project – R. Martin/T. Zanes

Trent Zanes, P.E., Roadway Section Group Leader, DOT, provided an update on the new Hinsdale/Brattleboro bridge crossing project. He reported that the Route 119 bridge crossing project consists of replacing 2 bridges with 1 that connect NH & VT. He reported that the new bridge will result in unlimited vertical clearance, eliminating the substandard existing vertical clearance and the potential for vehicular impact with the bridge. Although pedestrians and bicyclists will still be able to use the old rehabilitated historic truss bridges, the new bridge will provide a substantial safety improvement for operators of vehicles and pedestrians. In addition, the project will also move and build a new boat ramp component of the Prospect Street trailer boat access site in Hinsdale. Chairman Quarles reminded the Board that they toured that property on a prior PWAAB field trip.

Mr. Zanes reported that between the 2 current bridges is an island, which is a "Road to Public Waters" (RTPW) site, which will no longer be accessible by vehicle due to the new bridge project. DOT has found a new location to replace this lost boat access site, on Prospect Street, which happens to be an existing RTPW as well. He reported that the intent was to expand the site and provide direct access to the CT River. The new design consists of a tear drop shape parking lot, with an additional 8 spaces for car top parking, as well as a portable toilet on site. They will also install a gravel walk-way connecting the existing parking lot to a larger parking area, owned by the Town. He reported that negotiations were underway for the potential purchase of the additional town owned lot that abuts the boat access lot. He reported that the bridge project was delayed until August of 2020, however, the boat launch could be built prior to the bridge project. In closing, he reported that he would keep the Board updated.

Chairman Quarles asked that DOT boat ramp signage be placed on both sides of Route 119 to point to this site and he thanked Trent for the update. (following the meeting Garret G. distributed DOT's conceptual plan electronically)

Tribute to Director Normandeau

On behalf of the PWAAB, Chairman Quarles announced that Director Normandeau's term would be expiring on March 5, 2020 and thanked him for his leadership and for serving on the PWAAB. He specifically thanked him for his efforts in trying to secure boat access at the Wild Goose site on Lake Sunapee.

The Board applauded Director Normandeau for his efforts and service to the Fish and Game Department & PWAAB.

Director Normandeau thanked the Board for their comments.

3. Pending Legislation

HB-1810, relative to study commission on general dock standards & regulations. Chairman Quarles reported that it could potentially result in docks being removed from the wetland statutes and becoming a separate chapter under the shoreland water quality chapter. Instead of the various dock rules, it would result in a square footage allowance, depending on the size of the waterbody and owner's property frontage.

HB-645, dock registration bill, was vetoed, however, is now being reintroduced by Senator Bradley in the next session.

Rep. Dontonville reported on HB-640, amended legislation regarding registration fees for canoes & kayaks. He reported that it would be strictly voluntary for a one-year trial basis, resembling the Hike Safe card. This initiative is to encourage participation, prior to a registration fee being potentially mandated in the future. You would donate the amount of your choice.

SB-476, parking at access sites. This legislation would allow municipalities to control parking at public access sites.

5. 2018 Annual Reports –

DOT – Jim Gallagher made a motion to approve the DOT report as presented and Rebecca Martin seconded. The board unanimously approved.

PWAAB cover report – Gene Porter made a motion to approve the PWAAB cover report and Ken Gallagher seconded. The board unanimously approved.

6. Rocky Pond, Loudon and Canterbury – Garret Graaskamp & R. Martin

Garret reported that the current undeveloped access to Rocky Pond is located on Harmony Lane, off Rte. 106 in Loudon, NH. He reported that it is very easy to put a kayak in the pond here, however, there is no way to put in a trailered boat. Bill Gegas noted that there are two islands in the pond owned by DNCR.

Rebecca Martin reported that DOT owns 3 parcels containing abutting property on Rte. 106 and has shoreline access. She reported that DOT is open to discussing access options if Fish and Game would like to pursue them. However, she mentioned there could be parking concerns, as DOT's property is close to the shoulder of the road. She suggested planning a visit to the site.

Garret responded that F&G would like to meet with DOT once things have progressed after a site visit, to consider making this more formal with a memorandum of understanding and addressing parking issues.

7. Fish and Game site development matrix – Garret Graaskamp

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

8. Roads to Public Waters – orphaned sites project – T. Quarles., Ken G. and Garret G.

This item was not discussed due to lack of time and 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.

Public Comment

No comments heard.

Adjournment

At 12:06 p.m., Paul Van Blarigan moved to adjourn and Garret Graaskamp seconded. The board unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

Chairman Quarles thanked everyone for coming and announced that the next PWAAB meeting was scheduled for March 2, 2020, at the NH Fish & Game Department, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301, in the East & West conference rooms at 9:00 a.m.