

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 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; Rebecca Martin, NHDOT; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests); Paul Van Blarigan, GCD

Members Absent: Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Rep. Chris Christensen; R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests); Rep. James Webb; Hunting Interests (position vacant)

Audience Members: Amanda McQuaid, DES Beach Program; Tracie Sales, DES Rivers & Lakes Program; Thomas O'Brien, NHLA, Charles Saia, GCD, Jeff Stern, et al.

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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 – November 7, 2016**

Ken Gallagher noted that on Item 7 on page 3, Herrick Cove the wording "county road" should be replaced with "*state Route 103A.*" A motion was made by Chairman Quarles to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2016 meeting with minor edits, seconded by Gary Clark. 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, so if you know of anyone who may be interested, please encourage them to consider filling the vacancy.

Many member's terms expired in late October and need to seek reappointment. Gary Clark was reappointed last year, with his term expiring on October 27, 2018. Paul Van Blarigan has also been reappointed, with his term expiring on October 27, 2019.

Andy Robertson, Dick Smith, Joe Goodnough, Gene Porter, B. David Bryan, Michele Tremblay, and Chairman Quarles all must file for reappointment.

Legislative appointments from the Senate and House will also be changing soon.

Please remember that all members must annually complete the Financial Disclosure form previously emailed as well.

### **3. Tracie Sales – DES Rivers and Lakes Program**

Tracie Sales of DES came to speak to the board about her program's desire to assess state owned properties along rivers and lakes that are often sold or leased through CORD. She would like to create a list of those that would be important to keep in terms of public access. She also noted that she is working on getting the Lakes Program active again as it has been inactive since recent budget cuts and the retirement of Jacquie Colburn.

Amanda McQuaid, Beach Program Coordinator for DES spoke about how she is looking forward to integrating herself into various boards and programs as appropriate, with the beach inventory being an upcoming project for this Board.

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

The NHFG report was approved at the last meeting. Rebecca Martin provided the 2015 Annual Report for NHDOT. A motion to approve was made by Michele Tremblay, seconded by Jim Gallagher. The Board unanimously approved.

Other agencies still working on their 2015 reports include Marine Patrol, DES, OEP, and DRED. Those should be made available for approval at the March meeting.

All agencies should also begin preparation of their 2016 Annual Reports so they can be approved in a more timely manner.

### **5. State Surplus Land Disposals, Laconia – Tom Quarles**

CORD SLR17-001, City of Laconia. This request is in regards to a 5-year lease (with a 5 year renewal) to access 600 square feet of land abutting Paugus Bay by a private condominium association.

The Board had many questions regarding how this lease might impact the public's ability to access the rail corridor, which must be crossed to access the leased parcel. The biggest issue appears to be the possibility that the association might try to block access to the public WOW trail, which is being constructed from Belmont to Lakeport and eventually Weirs Beach and would need to cross this leased property.

A motion requesting the Board write a letter to CORD indicating its concerns was made by Michele and seconded by Garret. The motion was approved unanimously. The motion is as follows: "*that the PWAAB requests that CORD make an additional condition for renewal of this lease. That condition is that in the renewed lease the leasee, Bay Reach Association agrees not to oppose or interfere with the WOW Rail trail organization's Phase 3 plan to extend their rail trail within the existing railroad right of way alongside the leasee's property.*"

Michele noted that a formal letter is no longer necessary and that an email will suffice for CORD purposes. **Chairman Quarles will send the motion by email before the CORD meeting.**

**6. Winnepesaukee River Access, Northfield – T. Quarles**

Chairman Quarles noted that he worked with the American Whitewater Association and the Town of Northfield to purchase shorefront property for access to whitewater rapids and also nearby rail trail access. **Ken Gallager will add this new site to the database.**

**7. Greeley Park, Nashua – Gene Porter**

Gene noted that the City is still waiting to hear regarding their application for LWCF funding for this project. The lack of clarity regarding whether the rail crossing is public or not has held up the process. An agreement with NHDOT was finally reached in late November that states the crossing is publicly accessible. It is now just waiting on the signature of the Commissioner of NHDOT. **Rebecca Martin will ensure that the Board receives a copy of this document once executed. Bill will also update the Board regarding LWCF funding for this project. Gene will update the Board as information becomes available.**

**8. Jenness Beach, Rye – DRED Improvements and Lawsuit – Bill Gegas**

Bill Gegas reported regarding proposed improvements to the bath house and parking area at Jenness Beach in Rye. The abutting neighbor objects to these improvements stating that it will obstruct his view, and has brought a lawsuit to block the improvements. The lawsuit has since been dismissed, but the project was delayed enough that capital funding expired. DRED must now renew the application for capital funding in the next biennium in order to move forward. They are hopeful that this could happen as early as 2018.

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

In an effort to take a more comprehensive look at Road to Public Water sites, Dick Smith reported that the access to Nubanusit Lake in Hancock had recently been upgraded by the town. Dick recommends designating several parking spaces for handicap accessibility as the roadway is quite steep. He further recommended that the town utilizes a larger portable toilet for accessibility as well. The town refused a 30-year lease with NHFG and moved forward on their own with the improvements so it is likely not constructed as well as it might have been. Dick feels that more rock should be removed to allow boats to enter and exit the lake easier. As these rocks create a hazard to navigation, the Board and Marine Patrol could request that they be removed.

**Jim Gallagher will look up the wetlands permit to see if the town is still able to remove those rocks without renewing the permit. Dick will follow up on signage to be sure this site is properly signed for public access and is not restricted to town residents only.**

**10. Completed Ossipee Lake access – G. Graaskamp**

Garret briefly discussed this project, which is not yet complete, but should be by May. This site will have parking for 30 vehicles which makes it one of the largest in the state. It will also have double ramps and docks for ease of access, as well as a spot for launching canoes and kayaks.

Gary Clark recommended signage indicating "headway speed only" be placed along the river stretch until they reach the lake. Trees can often cause navigability issues. Captain Dunleavy can help with signs when the time comes.

Tom O'Brien (NHFA) questioned if there would be space available at the site for the Lake Host Program which helps to deter milfoil and other invasive plant and animal issues. Garret reported that NHFG will support the Lake Host Program at this site as it does across the state.

**11. NHFG Project Matrix Update – G. Graaskamp**

Garret provided attendees with the project matrix but there was no time for discussion. Below are the projects with changes listed on the matrix.

- Connecticut River, Colebrook: Paddler community has not approached NHFG to pursue project.
- Elbow Pond, Andover: No word from Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, who is the lead on this project.
- Lake Sunapee, Newbury: Updating NEPA for USFWS consideration. In the fall of 2016 NHFG applied to the legislature for a capital budget appropriation of about \$1.77 million to fund the construction of the Wild Goose boat access facility. The 20 year bond will be paid back with a combination of Sport Fish Restoration program and Statewide Public Boat Access program funds. The process would have the funds available on July 1, 2017.
- Umbagog Lake, Cambridge: NEPA Categorical Exclusion has been submitted and the DES wetlands permit will be submitted next week.
- Winnepesaukee (Downing's Landing), Alton Bay: Completed geo-tech drilling over land for design on new main dock. The over water drilling will be conducted after ice out conditions permit.
- Eagle Pond, Wilmot: Construction tentatively scheduled for spring/summer 2017 as other project commitments allow.
- Hot Hole Pond, Concord: A source of funding is needed to complete the fishing pier.

**12. New Androscoggin cartop site, Errol – Jeff Stern, ARWC, et al**

Jeff Stern of the Androscoggin River Watershed Council presented on a new access site planned in Errol. This access is just downstream of the current DOT-owned access upstream of the Seven Islands Bridge. See PWAAB's Andro. Map 6, site 9895. This is used during the "Source To The Sea" canoe/kayak paddle that consists of approximately 172 miles of river from Lake Umbagog to Merrymeeting Bay in Maine.

Improvements to the new site will help with erosion as well as providing parking, steps to the river, and an information kiosk. Permitting is complete. NHDOT owns the property in fee, although the town tax maps show Bayroot, LLC (a/k/a Wagner Forest Industries) as the property owner.

Chairman Quarles mentioned that signage should distinguish between the two sites, because although they are in close proximity, they offer very different boating experiences. The new access is downstream of some rapids. When the new site is completed there will be an easy portage around the rapids.

The Board is in support of this project but would like to stay involved as the project moves forward. The Board requested a more comprehensive plan that integrates these two sites with the nearby ATV parking lot and deals with road crossing issues, etc.

### **New Business**

None at this time.

### **Old Business**

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

- Roads to Public Waters – orphaned sites project
- 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 11:30 a.m. Motion to adjourn was made by B. David Bryan.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting is set for **Monday, March 13, 2017** and will be held at NHFG Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 beginning at **9:00 a.m.** Please note this is a change from the usual meeting date due to scheduling conflicts.