

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2016 FIELD TRIP

INTRODUCTORY

The Public Water Access Advisory Board took its annual field trip on September 19, 2016. Attending were Thomas Quarles, Chair (recording); Garret Graaskamp, Fish and Game; Ellen MacNeil, Fish and Game; Gene Porter, Motorized Boating; Gary Clark, Public Member; Rebecca Martin, DOT; Paul Van Blarigan, Governor’s Commission on Disability and Ken Gallager, OEP. The Board visited the following access sites in the following order:

ACTION ITEMS – [Note: Text in bold denotes action items and/or items for discussion and consideration by the PWAAB membership.]

Hot Hole Pond, Concord.

This is a very small pond of 27 acres that was one of Fish and Game’s first access site developments in the 1990’s. The entire pond is no wake zone. Fish and Game has recently improved the site by replacing the old ramp with more robust “Type-B” concrete planks. In addition, they poured a new concrete landing for bank stability and access to a future project to replace of the universal access fishing pier. The future pier will larger and have a lower elevation closer to the lake. There was a cyanobacteria warning at the time of our visit.



Otter Lake, Greenfield.

This site is part of Greenfield State Park, though it is accessed from a separate road than the main part of the park. The Board visited this site a few years ago when it was in terrible shape. Since then the site has been completely reconstructed. A pervious rigid-plastic aggregate-filled grid was installed in the parking area to reduce runoff at the site and allow for stormwater treatment before it enters the lake. This ramp is adjacent to the State Park beach. There is signage stating "trolling waters only".



Thorndike Pond, Jaffrey.

The Board visited this undeveloped public access site in the northwest corner of the lake. This site has very little room for parking or turning around; one or two parking spaces maximum. There is a 6" to 1' drop off from the road pavement onto the unpaved access ramp. The ramp goes to very shallow water, but eventually reaches the main part of this medium size lake. There are no restrictions on the lake use except a ban on jet skis (which is ineffective to ban most modern PWC's).



Shattuck Park, Thorndike Pond: Off Poole Road on the west side of Thorndike Pond south of the above site.

This is a very nice town owned and operated beach and picnicking facility. The beach has portable toilets, covered picnic tables and would be suitable for launching non-motorized boats, though there is probably a 100 yard carry. There was no signage limiting use to town residents when we visited. However, the town website says it is restricted to



residents only. Operating hours are dawn to dusk. There was an open gate at Poole Road that would prevent any parking if it is locked.

Meetinghouse Pond, Marlborough

Fish and Game recently redid this cartop access site, which is a few hundred yards east of the town site on the south shore of this pond. Fish and Game placed vertical posts (bollards) to prevent trailer access. The consensus was that there were not enough bollards and they were not placed properly to prevent trailer boat access. There was discussion that the bollards should be replaced or augmented by stones. **Presumably because of trailer traffic, this french (aggregate-filled) mattress that Fish and Game had constructed to help canoers and kayakers steady their boats while launching, was deteriorating. This will have to be repaired by Fish and Game.**



Route 10 Bridge, Winchester.

This was a recent DOT bridge project. Through an agreement between the agencies, DOT built this access for non-motorized boats and Fish and Game maintains it under an Memorandum of Understanding with DOT. There is a large gravel parking lot and a short pebble-surfaced access path to a steep bank with boulder steps leading down to the river. The water was very low on our visit, but it was evident that the normal stream flows would be adequate to float non-motorized boats easily.



Forest Lake, Winchester.

We visited the Mount Pisgah Sportman’s Club ramp. It is a very small dirt ramp immediately off Route 10 in the northwest corner of the lake. This lake has milfoil. There is parking for only a few vehicles, but this is a usable ramp for trailered boats.



Forest Lake, Winchester-Town Beach.

This beach is not restricted to town residents. It is on a side road off Route 10 on the west side of this small lake. There is plenty of parking and a bathhouse/snack bar building. The beach itself is very unusual in that it is at the foot of a tiered concreted deck and retaining walls. There are multiple picnic tables on the tiers. This design maximizes the useable space for people who do not want to be at the water’s edge swimming, but has the effect of looking very developed. There was not a tree in sight.



The Board proceeded to Rindge, New Hampshire.

Pearly Pond, Rindge

Our first stop in Rindge was at the outlet dam to Pearly Pond on Kimball Road. This is not an access site. In fact it has a chain linked fence preventing walk in access to the lake and a no trespassing sign put up by the Pearly Pond Association.

The only access to Pearly Pond is on the eastside of the lake on the access road (University Drive) to Franklin Pierce University. This is a very tight undeveloped site with 1 – 3 parking spaces. There is no ability to launch a trailer boat. It is suitable for car top access only.



Pool Pond, Rindge.

This is a very nice medium size site giving access to a largely undeveloped medium size lake west of Route 202. This is a Road to Public Waters Site. There is no asphalt or concrete ramp, but there is easy trailer boat launching on a gravel area. There is ample parking.



Contoocook Lake, Rindge.

This access site is on County Road east of Route 202. This is a very large site with plenty of room for parking vehicle-trailer combinations. However, this site is in terrible shape with lots of erosion on its sand and gravel surface. There was evidence that there used to be a dock at the shore, but it has been removed. This lake has milfoil. **It is fairly shallow and historically popular with fisherman. It is a Road to the Public Waters site that apparently receives no consistent maintenance from the town. If the town won't refurbish it, it should be considered for addition to the Fish and Game boating access program as this is a relatively large lake.**



The Board members proceeded on Route 202 to Route 9 and returned to the Fish and Game Headquarters in Concord by approximately 5:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Quarles, Chair.