Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Timothy Dunleavy, DOS; Kelly Buchanan, NH Lakes; Rebecca Martin DOT; Ken Gallager, OSI; Bill Gegas, DNCR; Gary Clark (general public); Garret Graaskamp, NHFG.

Members Absent: Senator Thomas Sherman; Senator Ruth Ward; Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; Jim Gallagher, DES; David Bryan (coastal interests); R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests); Paul Van Blarigan, GCD; Rep. Roger Dontonville; Gene Porter (power boat interests); Dick Smith (fishing interests); Michele Tremblay (river interests).

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

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Quarles welcomed everyone and called the field trip to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. at Fish and Game Headquarters.

The group then proceeded in a Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) sport utility vehicle (courtesy of Bill Gegas) northeast from Concord. The general theme of the field trip was to review Road to Public Waters (RTPW) sites in that area on the way to the Downing’s Landing Fish and Game access site under renovation on Alton Bay on Lake Winnipesaukee. Unless specifically stated otherwise all of the following sites are from the Road to Public Waters program. Select photographs of the various sites are compiled at the end of these minutes.

1. Deer Meadow Pond – Chichester (15 Deer Meadow Road; 21 acres). This unimproved access site is next to a Department of Environmental Services (DES) dam just west of Route 28. There is plenty of room for parking and a small rock ramp suitable for launching a small trailered boat. Milfoil (species unknown) was noted around the ramp. This pond outlets through the dam to a cut-off meander of the Suncook River.

   No improvements to the site are needed, but DOT boat ramp signs should be placed on Route 28 and also on Main Street where these roads intersect Deer Meadow Road.
2. Lily Pond – Barnstead (61 Shaw Road; 41 acres) on Shaw Road south off of Route 107; very picturesque; adequate parking; erosion on straight, slightly steep site. **DOT signs are needed at Route 107 and Shaw Road junction. Town needs to grade ramp.**

3. Lougee Pond – Barnstead (144 Coles Ledge Road; 42 acres). Off Route 28, onto Beauty Hill Road and then Coles Ledge Road. This waterbody has a no petroleum motors restriction. This is an attractive pond, but it is a long ride down dirt roads to get to. There is no development on the pond except a home adjacent to the site. The site has a broken up asphalt ramp that is not usable to launch a trailer boat. There is ample parking, and launching non-motorized boats is easy.

4. Upper and Lower Suncook Lake – Barnstead (375 Narrows Center Road; 592 acres). The two parts of the lake are separated by a bridge. The boat ramp is on the NW end of the bridge. The very small town beach is at the NE end. Parking is very limited for both areas, 3-5 cars each. The boat ramp is in decent shape with an abrupt drop off from power loading. The town beach is open to the general public.

5. Brindle Pond – Barnstead (84 acres). This pond is totally undeveloped and attractive. There is plenty of parking and some erosion in the launching area. **DOT signage is needed on Route 28 where Pineo Road goes east to this pond.**

6. Downing’s Landing, Lake Winnipesaukee – Alton (44,586 acres). This site was a private boat launch facility that Fish and Game purchased on November 21, 2012. They closed the site in August 2019 with the intent to reconstruct the boat ramps and install a ready-boarding dock in the middle of the two boat ramps. As the contractor was building the coffer dam for the reconstruction, they encountered wood materials related to wayward sawmill logs and wooden cribbing that is part of the steamboat landing at this site. This has delayed the ramp construction into 2020. It may not be completed until after the boating season.

   In a second phase of the project anticipated for the 2021 construction season, the parking will be completely reconfigured including the “upper shelf” of asphalt over the septic field, which will be removed. Parking will be maintained there at a new lower elevation. Portable toilets will be provided. Also during this phase a steel sheet pile bulkhead (i.e., retaining wall) will be installed along the shoreline south of the ramp to stabilize erosion of the bank.

7. Shaw’s Pond, New Durham (270 Kings Highway; 62 acres). This is a beautiful little-known beach off Middleton Road/King’s Highway, 3.2 miles
south of where Route 28N turns north into the center of Wolfeboro. The entrance is in between private driveways and is unmarked, even though a sign post is there. The access road is adequate and has a good turnaround. Parking for 5-6 cars is available. The sandy beach makes trailer boat launching problematic. The beach is superb. It is about 100 yards wide with no lake front homes to the west. Only the SE part of the lakeshore is developed. The field trip participants thoroughly enjoyed their lunch here and a walk on the beach thereafter. **Signage needs to be placed on the existing sign post.**

8. **Rust Pond, Wolfeboro (Route 28; 210 acres).** This is not a RTPW site. This site has been used as an informal, and the only, public access to the pond for many years. It is a very narrow strip of land with a relatively steep drop off from Route 28 to the edge of the water. The Route 28 Right-of-Way does not intersect the shoreline which is controlled by DES Dam 258.04. The NHFG 2009 map of Boating and Fishing Access locations lists the site as a NHFG property. Recent research of NHFG files did not find documentation to this effect. The current tax maps for the Town of Wolfeboro show the property to be owned by the Town.

   The Board visited this site because there is a dispute over ownership between the Town and the adjacent resident as shown on the tax map. The NHFG department has been approached by the Town inquiring whether the department would take control of the property so that it could continue as a cartop access. The resident approached the NHFG separately and has conditions on how the parcel would be accessed and other potential reserved rights. The NHFG informed both parties that they must resolve the ownership rights before the NHFG would participate in a joint meeting to explore how the property might be maintained as a cartop access. The NHDOT plans an upgrade to Route 28 at this location which could affect the use. The narrow property dimensions and abrupt topography could make approval as an official access site through the DES permitting process problematic. Available space for parking is also a big issue, and would have to be resolved before the NHFG would commit to control of the site either through a long-term lease or fee ownership.

9. **Mast Landing, Lake Wentworth (1,115 acres) via Crescent Lake (148 acres), Wolfeboro.**
This site is owned by the Town of Wolfeboro and is the only public boat access to Lake Wentworth, one of the 10 largest lakes in the State. It is a fine site, but you have to get out through Crescent Lake to access the main lake. The site is operated by the Town of Wolfeboro. It has 7 trailer boat parking spaces and 20+ single spaces. The site has a large ramp with docks on either side. Overnight boat parking is allowed for island residents only. It also serves as an access for the rail trail that goes through the site from
downtown Wolfeboro and continues northeast across Crescent Lake and part of Lake Wentworth on causeways.

10. **White Pond (not White Lake State Park), Ossipee (44 White Pond Road; 47 acres)**. The Pond is restricted to fly fishing only. It is almost completely undeveloped. Town signage at the site says, “No Dogs, No Bathing, No Alcohol, No Parking”. As a RTPW the “no bathing” prohibition is void and if you can’t park there then how can you use this access site? There is room to park 2-4 cars without obstructing the site.

   This is not a large or particularly scenic pond, but we did see a loon with a baby on its back. **The site needs a DOT sign at Route 16 and Granite Road.** Granite Road quickly leads to White Pond Road. The site is not far down this road. The Town is litigating wetlands violations and fines from the State it incurred for unpermitted work on the site. In doing so, the town is attempting to deny responsibility by proposing it does not own this site. As an RTPW site, the State holds title to the land, but the Town has the legal duty to maintain the site.

11. **Duncan Lake, Ossipee (114 acres)**. This waterbody has a 6 mph speed restriction. Two sites were visited on this waterbody during the field trip. The first is a gravel ramp with space for 1 to 2 vehicles that is maintained by the Town of Ossipee. It is located on west side of the lake on a narrow single lane travel way signed as Harper’s Ferry Landing. This lane is accessed from Route 16.

   In the southeast corner of lake is the Ossipee Town Beach (Cleveland Beach). It is not a RTPW site. It is not restricted to residents only. It is accessed off Cleveland Beach Road. The beach has full facilities and plenty of parking. Town regulations posted at the site state “15. No boat launching or portaging.”

12. **Connor Pond, Ossipee (86 acres)**. This is a Fish and Game boat access area for non-motorized watercraft. The pond has a no petroleum motors restriction. This was the subject of the North Woods Law episode we played at an earlier PWAAB meeting where a woman and her extended family argued repeatedly with a Fish and Game Conservation Officer that they should be able to swim at this site, even though Fish and Game’s rules for its boat access sites prohibit swimming (in contrast to the RTPW program).

   The PWAAB had visited this site on a previous field trip. This is one of the loveliest mountain ponds in the State. **It needs a DOT sign where Pine Hill Road leaves Route 16.**
13. Pine River access site to Ossipee Lake, Ossipee (4,024 acres). This is the Fish and Game site that the PWAAB had visited on earlier field trips. However, since some PWAAB members on this trip had not seen the site, we stopped here on our way back to Concord.

   **This site also needs DOT signs on Routes 16 and 25 pointing to the site.**
Photographs:

1. Deer Meadow Pond – Chichester (15 Deer Meadow Road; 21 acres).

2. Lily Pond – Barnstead (61 Shaw Road; 41 acres)
3. **Lougee Pond – Barnstead (144 Coles Ledge Road; 42 acres).**
4. **Upper and Lower Suncook Lake – Barnstead (375 Narrows Center Road; 592 acres).**

5. **Brindle Pond – Barnstead (84 acres).**
6. **Downing’s Landing, Lake Winnipesaukee – Alton (44,586 acres).**

7. **Shaw’s Pond, New Durham (270 Kings Highway; 62 acres).**
8. Rust Pond, Wolfeboro (Route 28; 210 acres).

10. **White Pond (not White Lake State Park), Ossipee (44 White Pond Road; 47 acres).**
11. **Duncan Lake, Ossipee (114 acres). - Harper’s Ferry Lane**

*Cleveland Beach*
12. **Connor Pond, Ossipee (86 acres).**

13. **Pine River access site to Ossipee Lake, Ossipee (4,024 acres).**