

PUBLIC WATER ACCESS ADVISORY BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 1, 2017

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

Members Present: Thomas Quarles, Esq., Chairman (general public); Glenn Normandeau, NHFG; B. David Bryan (coastal interests); Rep. Chris Christensen; Gary Clark (general public); 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); Michele Tremblay (river interests); Senator Ruth Ward; Paul Van Blarigan, GCD

Members Absent: Timothy Dunleavy, DOS (*excused*); Senator Dan Innis; Gene Porter (power boat interests)(*excused*); R. Andrew Robertson (non-motorized boating interests)

Audience Members: Ron Sowa; Rep. Suzanne Smith; Will Stevenson; Robert Wood

MEETING CONVENED

Chairman Tom Quarles called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

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

1. Approval of PWAAB minutes – March 13, 2017

Bob L’Heureux requested a minor change to the wording of Item 7. A motion was made by Jim Gallagher to approve the minutes for March 13, 2017 with minor edits, seconded by Joe Goodnough. The Board approved unanimously.

2. Members with Expiring Terms, Reappointments and Vacant Positions

Chairman Quarles noted Mr. Ron Sowa had turned in his request for appointment to the Board representing hunting interests. Several others are still awaiting reappointment from the Governor’s Office.

3. Exotic Aquatic Weeds and Species Committee – Rep. Suzanne Smith

Michele Tremblay, along with Rep. Suzanne Smith, Will Stevenson and Robert Wood presented on Aquatic Invasive Species. They discussed the nature and scope of the threat, what is currently being done to prevent, treat, or control these species, as well as long term management plans.

4. Legislative Issues

There have only been a few items this legislative session that appear to be of interest to this Board as follows:

SB119 – relative to the length of docks on a water body, water body size – retained in committee.

HB195 – establishing a committee to study temporary seasonal docks – passed.

SB48 – establishing a commission to study the efficiency and effectiveness of the fish and game department's operations, governance, and management structure - retained in committee.

5. State Agency Annual Reports for 2015

Chairman Quarles provided the cover report for the 2015 PWAAB Annual Report for approval. A motion was made to approve as written by Jim Gallagher, seconded by Gary Clark. The Board unanimously approved.

It was requested that the NHFG mobile app, Pocket Ranger, be presented at the November meeting. **Garret will ensure someone from the Department can present. All agencies should also begin preparation of their 2016 Annual Reports so they can be reviewed at the November meeting.**

6. Franklin Pierce Lake – Manahan Park, Hillsboro – Garret Graaskamp

Garret reported that the Town of Hillsboro has approached the Department regarding a 30-year lease in order to make improvements to the site. The town has already appropriated about \$60,000, which is about half of what is needed. This lake is stocked by the Department. A disability accessible fishing pier would need to be financed separately if the Town wants one included. **Garret will continue to update the Board as things move forward.**

7. Roads to Public Waters – Orphaned Sites Review – T. Quarles

After several reviews of the lists involved, it was determined that only eight (8) possible RTPW sites have not been geo-located, although most have RTPW or DOT files. There were several sites on Gary's list that have no DOT file.

Looking at the most current list it must be determined whether those sites listed in yellow are available and/or accessible. Are there restrictions for residents only? All sites must be verified in some way.

Ken Gallager will send out the Allsites data shape-file so that members can look up sites and report on any they are familiar with. These can also be viewed via GRANIT. **Board members are asked to look at these files, beginning with Gary's list and report at our November meeting.**

8. NHFG Project Matrix Update – G. Graaskamp

Garret reported that there was no new information to update the Matrix at this time. However, he did note that the Pine River access to Ossipee Lake should be completed and open by Memorial Day.

9. Fish and Game Boat Access Program Rules – Fis 1600 – Garret

Once a draft is available, Garret will email to the Board. Members are asked to review Fish and Game's public access site rules that are due for updating as they expire in 2018. Please notify Garret with any potential issues or changes.

10. Nashua Area Access Update – Gene Porter via email

The City of Nashua has applied for a \$200K Federal Land and Water Conservation Grant to supplement \$200K of City money to upgrade the Greeley Park boat ramp.

The City of Nashua (Community Development Division) has hired an experienced riverfront consulting service to develop a plan to upgrade the Nashua River waterfront. The firm has some ideas and has established a website that will "crowdsource" additional ideas from the public, many of which involved improved public access proposals. The crowdsource site is <https://courbanize.com/projects/nashua-riverfront/comaps/39>.

Mayor Donchess officially opened the Nashua River's Millyard Technology Park gravel trailer boat ramp to the public on 22 April.

The Town of Litchfield has identified a town-owned shorefront lot on the Merrimack River that is judged by Town authorities to be suitable for a cartop boat launch site with minimal or no disturbance of the shoreland. Gene advised the Town to check with the DES Shoreland Program office to ascertain the need for permits, if any. The site is upstream of Cromwell's Falls at the bend in the river.

11. Funding from Non-Motorized Boaters

There was an extensive discussion about how to raise money from non-motorized boaters so that they paid for their fair share of the Fish and Games boat access program. Many ideas have been previously discussed and were reviewed again. Michele Tremblay noted that we must all work together to find a reasonable solution. **There was some sentiment for submitting a bill to form a study committee to explore options and draft proposed legislation.**

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 12:02 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Bob L'Heureux and seconded by B. David Bryan. The Board unanimously approved.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is set for **Monday, September 11, 2017** and will be the annual Field Trip. Members will meet here at NHFG Headquarters, 11 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301 beginning at **8:30 a.m.** for a 9:00 a.m. departure. Itinerary to be determined.