

**Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee**  
**December 14, 2009**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
7:30 PM

Location: DCR Administration Building Belchertown, MA

Members present: Tom Berube, Art Miner, Elisa Campbell, Larry Gates, Dennis Duguay, Tom Lautzenheiser Mason Phelps, Bill Lafley, Jane Pierce and Craig Cortis

DCR Staff Attending: Bill Pula

**Regional Director's Report**

Deer Hunt 2009

Bill Pula reported on the results of the 2009 deer hunt. The hunt went well with a harvest of 200 deer well above average. In particular Petersham and Hardwick had very successful hunts in part do to the ideal conditions which included a recent snow fall.

New England National Scenic Trail

Bill Pula presented the most current route and signage for the proposed rerouting of the former Metacomet-Monadnock Trail. Jane Pierce is not in favor of the new route and in general the Swift River Valley Historical Society (SRVHS) is not in favor of expanded recreation on land taken from residents for water supply purposes. Elisa Campbell thinks the watershed rules will be difficult to enforce. Bill Lafley thinks the trail will attract additional people and he does not support expanded recreation on DCR watershed land. Jane Pierce made the following motion "Consistent with the Quabbin Watershed Protection Plan, QWAC does not support the establishment and associated infrastructure of the New England National Scenic Trail on the DCR watershed land." Dennis Duguay pointed out that the hiking was passive recreation and since we allowed expansion of the bike trail, we should allow the hiking trail. A number of members pointed out that the bike trail did not require infrastructure improvements. The motions passed with nine in favor and one abstention.

### Moose Impacts

Elisa Campbell is concerned with the impact moose are having on regeneration at Quabbin and if moose are attracted to one or two acre openings, why they are such a large part of forestry that takes place on Quabbin? She would also be in favor of a moose hunt, but does not see one in the near future. Unless the moose population is controlled, she is not in favor of the one and two acre openings.

### Private Boats and AIS

Larry Gates is concerned that the 140 F water will damage motors in particular the impellers can be damaged in 10 seconds. Larry Gates wanted to know what DCR is doing about other sources of AIS. Elisa Campbell also wanted to know the status of canoes and kayaks. DCR is planning to purchase and rent canoes and kayaks at fishing areas 1 and 2 this coming season.

## **Members Comments**

Elisa Campbell commented on the pole replacement by National Grid and wondered where the poles that are being removed are going.

Dennis Duguay had a question about new regulations restricting the possession of guns on DCR property and if that would affect the Ware River Watershed. A quick look at the regulations indicated they did not apply to DCR land in the Ware River Watershed with the exception of Rutland State Park.

Tom Berube commented that the paraplegic hunt was successful. Nine hunters participated and two deer were taken.

**NEXT QWAC MEETING is January 25, 2010 at 7:30 PM. The Agenda will include an update on protecting Quabbin from Aquatic Invasive Species and plans for implementation of the Quabbin Watershed Land Management Plan.**