



Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee

April 5, 2010

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 Peirce Tony Brighenti, Tom Barnes, Joe Babineau, and Craig Cortis

DCR Staff Attending: Bill Pula, Gary Briere, and Paul Lyons

Public Attending: J. R. Greene (MWRA Advisory Board), Ralph Lapinskas, John Pearsall and Cheryl Harrell (of Temenos Retreat), Mike Gildesgame (AMC), Charles Tracy (National Park Service), and Adam Briere

Regional Director's Report

New England National Scenic Trail (NENST)

Tony Brighenti inquired about the procedure to discuss the NENST given the QWAC has already voted in opposition to location of the trail on DCR Watershed land. QWAC did vote to allow for continued discussion. Paul Lyons introduced Charles Tracy of the National Park Service, Gary Briere of DCR, and Mike Gildesgame of the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), who were at the meeting to explain their work on the NENST. Charles Tracy discussed the process leading to the federal designation on the trail. Gary Briere discussed DCR's involvement in development of the trail and addressing Watershed concerns. Mike Gildesgame discussed AMC volunteers' role in development and maintenance of the proposed trail.

The members' comments followed. Elisa Campbell wanted to know why QWAC wasn't brought into the process earlier. Bill Lafley wanted to know what was designated in 2009 and is it a work in progress, is there really a set route or need for one. J. R. Greene wanted to know if local communities were consulted as part of the trail hearing process.

Charles Tracy stated that there was a public meeting on the trail in Amherst and that the NENST designation does not have a set route and that there are currently other gaps in the route. Elisa Campbell stated QWAC was not consulted enough and the trail is a violation Quabbin Public Access Plan. Gary Briere explained that DCR letter to AMC included many conditions that had to be met for the trail to be located on watershed land. Paul Lyons presented the trail route through maps and photos illustrating that the vast majority of the trail is located on existing roads.



John Pearsall of the Temenos Retreat spoke of his groups concern over the location of the trail. He explained that in 1991 MDC took 12 acres from their organization to protect it from development and now feels development of a trail that directly abuts Temenos land is a violation of trust. He is concerned with the enforcement of rules and possible vandalism of historic structures on the land. Mike Gildesgame said the route in the north is not finalized and the trailhead has not been determined. Bill Lafley was concerned that when MDC and DEM merged that watershed would suffer as recreation was emphasized. Jane Peirce said SRVHS did not support the merger and had similar concerns.

Tony Brighenti made a motion to reaffirm the vote of December 14, 2009 that stated QWAC did not support the trail because it was not consistent with the Quabbin Public Access Management Plan. The vote was unanimous to reaffirm the December 14, 2009 vote.

2010 Fishing Season

The 2010 fishing season will open on April 17. Boats that have intact Quabbin Boat Seals will be allowed to launch. The Cold Weather Quarantine Program sealed 69 boats and we scheduled dates to decontaminate and seal 129 additional boats before opening day. As of this date we have sold about 150 season passes.

Meeting Adjourned

NEXT QWAC MEETING is June 7, 2010 at 7:30 PM. DCR Administration Building, Belchertown, MA