

## **Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee**

### **Meeting Summary**

June 7, 2010

7:30 PM

Location: DCR Administration Building Belchertown, MA

Members present: Tom Berube, Art Miner, Elisa Campbell, Dennis Duguay, Mason Phelps, Jim Boyko, Tony Brighenti, Tom Barnes, Glen Chase, and Craig Cortis

DCR Staff Attending: Bill Pula, Jonathan Yeo, Herm Eck, Thom Kyker-Snowman, Dave Small, Steve Anderson, Chris Stone

Public Attending: J. R. Greene (MWRA Advisory Board), Ralph Lapinskas, Bill Van Dorn, Genevieve Fraser, Steve Guillotte, Gary Allard, Valeri Wisniewski, Nick Wisniewski, Paul Davis, John Conkey Sr., John Conkey Jr., and Ronald Rich

#### Status of Forestry Program

Thom Kyker-Snowman and Herm Eck made a presentation on a number of topics including the status of the Watershed Land Management Plans, the State Forest Futures Visioning Process and the Commonwealth Forest Heritage Plan. The focus of the presentation was how DCR Watershed will comply with the Heritage Plan by reassembling the Science and Technical Advisory Committee to review the Land Management Plans (LMP) and present the recommendations to the public for comment.

Jonathan Yeo discussed how DCR will proceed with the forestry lots that have already been marked and sold. DCR will be reviewing the lots with three options in mind. If the lots are irregularly shaped, contain regeneration, have retained trees and meet the LMP DCR will proceed with the harvest. Lots that can be modified to meet these criteria will be remarked and the sale can proceed. Some larger lots that are difficult to modify will be cancelled and the money returned.

#### Members and Public Comments

Elisa Campbell was shocked and concerned about the attacks on individual state employees represented by the “wanted poster” that was found in some surrounding communities and the web. Craig Cortis asked

for details on how DCR will proceed with the existing contracts. Jonathan Yeo assured him that they will be reviewed on an individual basis before the cutting proceeds. Tom Berube does not know why the LMPs need to be reviewed if they were already approved by DCR and QWAC and that this process is very unfair to the loggers. Dennis Duguay said that there has been a forestry program at Quabbin for 50 years and people have contracts; to arbitrarily stop them is unfair. DCR should honor the contracts as written. Paul Davis said he has been working in Quabbin for 25 years bringing sunlight to the forest floor to grow new trees and DCR shouldn't change the LMPs. The loggers have made a lot of changes that include buying expensive equipment and by stopping the work DCR is putting them out of business.

If the LMPs were based on sound science why should they change now? John Conkey who has been working on Quabbin for 30 years feels the harvest is very important to maintaining the forest health. Most importantly, "when are you going to make a decision on the sold lots?" Tony Brighenti wants to know who stopped the sales and what do they have to do to get the decision made to continue the forestry program. Nick Wisniewski said he can sympathize with the local woods workers but some people have concerns with the intense forest cutting that has been taking place and that conservation was missing from this model. He went on to say there is a mandate from the people to preserve and protect the forests surrounding Quabbin. Tom Berube said everyone speaking here wants to preserve the forest; the current LMP does preserve the forest. Elisa Campbell said some of the past cutting bothered her on a visual level but if modifications are made to avoid straight lines and some trees are retained as DCR has discussed she is in agreement with continuing the program. She was also concerned with where the wood products are going.

Elisa Campbell made a motion that DCR proceed with the sold forestry lots with the three options Jonathan Yeo outlined. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### Fishing Areas Update

Art Miner said some fishermen were complaining about the condition of the portable toilet at Purgee Brook. Bill Pula said it would be addressed. He also said some club members were questioning whether they needed boat registrations at Quabbin. Bill Pula said boating regulations are the purview of the Environmental Police.

### New England National Scenic Trail

Jim Boyko wanted to know why it was still under consideration if QWAC has repeatedly voted against the proposal and it is in conflict with the DCR policy. Tony Brighenti said it should be a dead issue but to put it on the agenda for the next meeting.

### Quabbin Park Cemetery

Bill Pula described the damage done to the cemetery by a severe May thunderstorm. Jim Boyko wants DCR to clean up the hazard trees in the cemetery to prevent future damage.

### Night Access Permits

Tony Brighenti would like to change the way Night Access Permits are issued so north Quabbin residents don't have to travel to Belchertown to have them issued.

**NEXT QWAC MEETING is September 13, 2010 at 7:30 PM.**