

WRWAC

Ware River Watershed Advisory Committee
Contact: Jeff Schaaf at (413) 477-6646
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: October 21, 2009

Members (members in BOLD were present):

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Robert Carey, **William Label**
Alternate: **Clark Abysalh**

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: **Dave Papale**
Alternate: Paul Thompson

Trout Unlimited: **Jeffrey Schaaf, Co-chairman**
Alternate: (empty)

A Rod and Gun Club: **Chris Duggan**
Alternate: Brian Waterman

Barre Selectboard: Martha Varnot
Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

Hubbardston Selectboard: Thomas Bratko
Alternate: empty

Oakham Selectmen: Thomas Hughes
Alternate: Henry Stone

Rutland Selectmen: **Charles R. Williams**
Alternate: empty

Barre Historical Society: Burt Frost
Alternate: Peg Frost

Hubbardston Historical Society: empty
Alternate: empty

Oakham Historical Society: Wes Dwelly
Alternate: **Bill Mucha**

Rutland Historical Society: **Helen Viner**
Alternate: Tim Nahrwold

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: Bill Westaway, Co-chairman
Alternate: Thomas Berube

Massachusetts Audubon Society: Charles Delaney
Alternate: empty

Sierra Club: **Matt Hopkinson**
Alternate: empty

Upper Ware River Watershed Association: **Donald Rich**
Alternate: **Edward Yaglou**

General Public: **Mark DuBois**
Alternate: (empty)

Visitors

Al Sterns
Dean Zuppio

DCR DWSP Representative(s):

Dave Small, Asst. Reg. Dir
Herm Eck, scribe

Agenda

- Public Access Plan

The September WRWAC meeting minutes were amended to put Dave Papale's name in bold and then approved.

Public Access Plan

Jeff Schaaf asks for an update on the public access plan. DCR replied that we are still looking for comments on the draft plan. Most comments so far have involved snowmobile access issues. Other comments have been about bike trails, the rail trail and cross country skiing. Dave Small mentioned that the DEP is recommending no growth or slow growth of recreational activities on watershed lands. DCR will discuss all comments on the draft public access plan and prepare a revised draft plan in November.

Dave Small asks the WRWAC members for additional comments on the access plan. Dick Williams ask for clarification on beaver issues and invasive issues. DCR responded that our pathogen free zone, where beaver are controlled, is relatively small at Quabbin and is centered on the CVA and does not impact the Ware River. Dave Papale recommended that everyone wear hunter orange during the hunting season. Matt Hopkinson mentioned that a discussion of cooking fires is on the fact sheet for dog and domestic animal access. Matt inquired about the aquatic invasive prevention procedures for canoe and kayak use at the Ware River. DCR responded that those procedures are not yet finalized but will likely include self inspection forms and possibly some new positions to help implement the program. Matt also suggested that the Barre Falls Dam boat ramp be added to table 9. Bill Mucha suggested that the December 31 date be eliminated from the snowmobile access policy. Bill also suggested that the DCR attach snowmobile gates to a few more of our gates to facilitate dog sledding. Chris Duggan ask if an ATV with snow tracks would be allowed on the snowmobile trails. Dean Zuppio stated that an EPO would still consider them an ATV. Dean inquired about the proposed snowmobile trail between the snowmobile bridge and the rail trail. DCR responded that we are working with the Coldbrook Snowmobile Club and the MWRA to find a way to connect the bridge with the rail trail.

Future meeting dates:

**Thursday January 21, 2010 at 7:00
at the Franklin Wood Studio in Rutland behind the Police/Fire station**

Agenda: Public access plan