

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
December 9th, 2019
7:00 PM

Location: DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members: (members in **BOLD** were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: **Tom Berube (chairperson)**

Alternate:

Trout Unlimited: **Jerry Eves**

Alternate: Joe Babineau

Quabbin Fisherman's Association: **Larry Gates**

Alternate: Bill Martell

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: Ronald Komar

Alternate:

North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association: Tony Brighenti (vice chairperson)

Alternate: Tom Barnes; Dennis Duguay

Mass Audubon: **Tom Lautzenheiser**

Alternate:

Swift River Valley Historical Society: James Boyko

Alternate: Jane Peirce

Massachusetts Wildlife Federation: **Bill Pula**

Alternate:

New England Sierra Club: **Elisa Campbell**

Alternate:

Friends of Quabbin, Inc.: **J.R. Greene**

Alternate: Gene Theroux

General Public: **Ralph Lapinskas**

Alternate:

DCR staff present: Dan Clark, Justin Gonsor

Members of the public present: Lexi Dewey, Mike Laprade, Bob Sagan, Steve Ward

Meeting Start Time: 7:04 PM

Approval of Minutes of Meeting on September 9th, 2019

J.R. Greene made a motion to accept the minutes from the QWAC meeting held on September 9th, 2019. Ralph Lapinskas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Elisa Campbell abstained from voting as she did not attend the September meeting.

Quabbin Reservation deer hunt update

Dan Clark updated the committee on the various 2019 Quabbin deer hunts.

The controlled hunt is set to take place in the Petersham zone on December 12th and 13th.

The Pelham zone is open to walk-in hunting during the shotgun season (Dec. 2nd–14th) from specified Quabbin access gates. People were required to first register online, which was free, to get an access permit. 383 people signed up. The state check system will be relied upon for harvest data.

The controlled hunt in Quabbin Park that was scheduled for Dec. 5th and 6th has been cancelled. A last-minute decision was made at the secretariat level to pull back and not hunt the park this year. DCR is committed to continuing to study the deer population. Another density estimate should be completed this winter. If the park is hunted next year, the people that were selected this year would be given first-priority before a lottery. There was discussion about the public meeting held this past summer where some local constituents voiced their displeasure over the park being hunted. Tom Lautzenheiser reminded everyone that the deer hunt is in place to accomplish certain watershed management objectives.

Bill Pula made a motion that the committee draft a letter to DCR's acting commissioner and secretary. The letter will describe the committee's position on the park hunt as well as address and inquire as to why the committee wasn't

consulted or informed about the decision to cancel it. Ralph Lapinskas seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Tom Berube commented that three people participated in the paraplegic hunt. Two deer were harvested.

2019 BLA fishing report

A copy of the 2019 Quabbin fishing program annual report was given out to committee members.

Mike Laprade commented that the sign-in process is still somewhat cumbersome and requires a lot of paperwork to be filled out. Dan Clark answered that the implementation of boater ID cards in 2018 helped to better track private boats on/off the water and their corresponding boat seal number. There is the potential for point of service (POS) sales to be available at the boat launch areas (BLA's) in the coming year; this would allow for the use of credit/debit cards. The names of all people going out on the water will still need to be recorded for each boat launched, private or rental.

Quabbin Park Cemetery update

Dan Clark updated the committee on recent work done at Quabbin Park Cemetery.

MWRA has paid for and drilled a new well at the cemetery, adjacent to the office building. The plan is to run irrigation pipes to 3-4 spigots and provide a reliable source of water across the cemetery.

The next phase of cemetery work will entail demolishing two out buildings that are no longer needed; a storage shed and old pump house. Some smaller repairs are also planned for the main office building. A historical review on the buildings will first need to be conducted.

Steve Ward stated that there is a pile of old headstones near the old garage building and urged DCR to investigate the origins of those stones. Dan Clark agreed that the issue should be addressed.

Member Issues

Elisa Campbell commented on DCR's webpage. She would like to see more public information posted regarding forestry and other relevant reports related to water quality. Bill Pula added that the MWRA produces quarterly/annual reports (consumer confidence report) that includes water quality information and are available to the public. There was discussion of potentially posting the 2019 Quabbin Fishing Program annual report online. Steve Ward brought up DEP's annual inspection report, which Quabbin's filtration waiver depends upon.

J.R. Greene asked about the status of Quabbin Park Cemeteries database of graves. Dan Clark answered that Quabbin's GIS specialist is working on retrieving the information in the GraVoc graves database and linking it to DCR's GIS database of the cemetery. Projected completion date is set for some time in FY2021.

Bill Pula talked about Massachusetts house bill H.897 which, if passed, would place a moratorium on logging in the state on public lands. Steve Ward advocated for strict monitoring and follow-up of forestry operations in Quabbin to ensure that forestry practices detailed in the cutting plans are being followed by the people who harvest the lot.

Tom Lautzenheiser brought up house bill H.792 which, if passed, would ban glyphosate use and transfer in the state. Glyphosate is the main active ingredient in Roundup, a broad-spectrum herbicide. He added that glyphosate is less toxic than other herbicide alternatives. Invasive species were discussed, and herbicides were mentioned as one of their most effective treatments. Dan Clark commented that Quabbin is updating their terrestrial invasive strategy document into an actual plan. The plan will be presented to the committee upon completion.

Bob Sagan commented that the Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen has voted to make him their alternate member on the committee, behind Tom Berube. A letter will be sent to Dan Clark from the Sportsmen's Council to begin the process of officially adding Bob as an alternate member on QWAC.

Meeting End Time: 8:03 PM

Upcoming QWAC Meetings:

- Monday, March 9th, 2020 at 7PM – DCR Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007