

## Cabot Planning Commission Meeting April 4, 2019 5:00 pm

Public presentation Forest and Parks, John Medose NE Regional Facilities Manager presenting

Molly's Falls Pond State Park

2016 The State began the process of monitoring on site use and identifying inventorying sites, a variety of questions concerning point in process and how the state intends to proceed were asked., John indicated the state had not completed the long range plan and is still monitoring the facility, a question on the state's required permitting and use of the land was asked, John indicated that the states powers for development come out of legislation, article 4 in statute, Forest & Parks intends to work with the community even though local regulations do not apply. John asked if he could continue with the presentation as many of the questions may be answered.

Boat launch facilities are now under a memorandum of understanding between Forest and Parks and Fish and Wildlife, this agreement indicates who will be responsible for what until 2032 and until that point there will not be a fee charged for day use at the park. Portalets and some onsite parking are available at the boat launch for day use visitors, an area will be designated for overnight access, all overnight access sites are remote sites and are only accessible by boat. Other improvements at the Boat launch area include ADA access improvements, and new information Kiosks.

Day use of the Park is prevalent, there is a wide range of activities occurring, The onsite rangers are discouraging folks to move on from sites they are considering day use from overnight access, and from sites where facilities have not been established.

Some popular day use sites will not be restricted for overnight use. Bank and shoreline management are some of the areas that will be addressed in the plan.

Question was asked as to control and flow of the water due to the Dam, Green Mountain power still owns and controls the dam and operations, they are currently relicensing and everyone expects that arrangements will be similar to those at Green River and the Waterbury reservoir for usage. Question was asked as to age of the Dam, John was not sure, Ruth Goodrich indicated it was in the 1920's

Remote camping will be reservation sites, the new registration system is not on line yet but hopefully will be soon, all state camp sites are on an 11 month reservation system. Exploration into a secondary parking access off of old route 2 for 16 +/- cars to allow for additional space not at the access area. There have been site improvements to 5 sites, these have been upgraded and roughly 4 are planned for this year, the sites have not been numbered yet as to location as assessment of which sites are functional is ongoing. Several of the existing sites will be abandoned due to lack of ability to improve facilities or other environmental issues. Wildlife impacts and review are also in process, folks indicated there are two loon nesting sites and wondered about identification of a possible eagle nesting site.

Other sites will be abandoned as they are not environmentally sound and cannot provide setbacks or usage causes erosion issues. Site closure and rotation are issues not established yet , a variety of methods are used at other locations such as installation of barriers, eliminating trails, actively discouraging use of certain areas. Forest and Parks has seen a shift in the patterns of use on site and overtime use will dictate this. John noted staff on site are not enforcement officers.

Question asked regarding restrictions Loons, Loon restrictions are not currently in place this will be determined once information has been gathered and plan established. John indicated that the state biologists have not completed the assessment.

Designated overnight parking area will be at the boat launch area, the rangers onsite are monitoring usage and have seen a shift in transient use, presence of park staff has helped eliminate some of this, Park staff are on site from May till Labor day from 7-4 or 9-5.

Site improvement work so far, 5 composting toilets have been installed, all work is done to ANR's specifications, plans are to install 2-4 this year at identified locations. VYCC restoration crews have been assisting with this work, they were on site last year for 4 weeks completing a variety of work, they are instigating best practice methods for primitive sites, a decision has not been made to install metal fire rings and grills on site, a preference is to use onsite materials stone for this work, also for tent platforms they are trying dirt not wood construction with wood edges, timber frame was not efficient, and onsite log use may be considered.

Hazard trees and onsite tree removal is ongoing, over 200 hazard trees have been dropped including a stand of red pines, many of these trees are dropped onsite for habitat usage. Currently the State is working on the stewardship plan the precursor to the long range plan Forest and parks would like to continue meeting in the community to get feedback on progress and plans.

Question on how sites are reserved, currently it is first come first served. Question asked about invasive species and water quality issues, noting many locations have inspection sites and boat washing stations. John indicated a boat washing station could not happen without onsite water. A discussion on prevention and other area concerns was had, many supported the idea of staffed inspection area and other methods to prevent invasive species in the dam. John was not aware of any existing concerns over species already on site. John indicated he would stress these concerns and indicate an interest for an onsite inspection station for this season.

A discussion on red worm privies transpired indicating they are considered evasive, John indicated that the State currently does not use red worms and that the slides should read moldering privies.

The concept of trails on site and a circumnavigating trail were discussed, currently there is not a plan for this much of the terrain is difficult, a possible connection to Groton state forest and the Cabot trails were discussed, Andrew from Cabot's trails committee expressed interest in developing trails and connections as they are a new organization they would like to continue this discussion. Currently there are no plans for the land on the opposing side of route 2.

John indicated they wish to continue providing opportunities for feedback from the community.

## Cabot Planning Commission Meeting April 4, 2019 5:00 pm

PC - Chuck Marian, Kate Chatot, Dawn Andrews, public Ruth Goodrich, Jennifer Miner, Jeff Haslett, Karen Deasy (ZA)

1. Review agenda

Meeting called to order 6:42 pm , no public comment, no changes to agenda.

2. Public comment

3. Forest and Parks Presentation Molly's Falls State Park, Marshfield Dam

4. Discussion on Planning Commission membership, thoughts on changing board size from 5 members to 7

Chuck discussed that he would like to see more participation from people in the community and a 7 member board would do that and has received letters expressing interest from residents. Kate indicated that studies have indicated that the larger your group size the greater the number of interactions would be, did not see where increasing group size would allow for more efficiency, Dawn indicated she would like to see the position advertised and also indicated that she would like to see the board back to 5 members before making a shift.

Kate also would like to see position advertised and agrees with getting the board back to 5 members before adding any additional.

Chuck indicated he had three names, Karen indicated that she had at least one with a few others considering the position. Kate would like to see more skills brought to the board, board discussed ways to post position. Dawn indicated she would like to see those who expressed interest at the May meeting. May Meeting will be the 2<sup>nd</sup>. Board voted 3-0 to postpone discussion until board was back to 5 members.

Karen will place advertisement and post notice indicating letters of interest should be provided by May 1, Chuck will contact those he has received about attending.

5. other business

Chuck has new email address due to increase in PC emails PCcabot@gmail.com

6. Next meeting date May 2, 2019, 5:00 pm

Chuck - Motion to adjourn 6:54 pm

Submitted by Karen Deasy