

Minutes of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area Working Group

DATE: 27 February 2009

PRESENT:	Bud Berry	Lakes Management Advisory Committee
	Melissa Coppola	Natural Heritage Bureau
	Joshua Dirth	Bureau of Marine Patrol
	Kevin Donovan	Parks and Recreation
	Jean Hansen	Long Sands Association
	Sheila Jones	Town of Effingham
	Don Kent	Dept. Resources & Economic Development
	Wayne Killam	Business Community
	Richard Lover	Boating Community
	Allen McKenney	Boating Community
	Martha Eldridge	Town of Center Ossipee
	Bryan Nowell	Forest Protection Bureau
	John Panagiotakos	Boating Community

Don Kent called the third meeting of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area (OLNA) Working Group to order at 1:00 PM. The Working Group approved the minutes of the previous meeting via email communication.

Old Business

Statutes and Rules

Don Kent and Joshua Dirth provided an update on Administrative Rules applicable to the OLNA. Don indicated that any historic or cultural artifacts discovered at the OLNA are to be conveyed to the Division of Historical Resources via him. DRED is revising its rules to differentiate between DRED state parks and recreation areas, and other properties, and to allow animals at the OLNA (subject to Protection of Resources, Littering and Sanitation, and Disorderly Conduct rules). DRED is working with the Attorney General to amend the rule limiting swimming to designated areas (i.e., within lifelines). Joshua reviewed Criminal Trespass and Prescribed Manner of Posting statutes with the Working Group.

Bathrooms

John Panagiotakos and Sheila Jones updated the Working Group on the bathroom issue. John contacted Teresa Ptak, Department of Environmental Services (DES) Clean Vessel Act Coordinator. Ms. Ptak will share with the OLNA Working Group information about the Lake Winnisquam effort to obtain funding for a floating bathroom. The Clean Vessel Act will fund up to 75 percent of the cost of floating bathroom. In addition, Ms. Ptak will assist the OLNA Working Group “in whatever way possible”. Sheila provided the Working Group with a handout describing various floating bathrooms, and information

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about Clean Vessel Act Funding. Don reiterated the short-term necessity for marine toilets or returning to on-shore facilities, and the long-term pursuit of Clean Vessel Act funding for a floating bathroom.

Water Quality

Sara Steiner, DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) Coordinator, made a presentation to the Working Group on Ossipee Lake water monitoring and water quality. Bud Berry summarized the recommendations of the Water Quality Subgroup (John Shipman, Jacquie Colburn, Bud Berry with assistance from Sonya Carlson, DES Beach Program Coordinator). A combination of volunteers from the Working Group, boating community, and VLAP would conduct the sampling. DES would perform the sample analysis using funds from a voluntary OLNA fee, or donated by the Ossipee Lake Alliance. The Subgroup recommends *E. coli* bacteria sampling 10 May, 25 May (Memorial Day), 5 July, and 16 August 2009 at the mouth of the Pine River, at the OLNA nearshore, and the outlet of Red Brook. In addition, volunteers would measure turbidity every hour or two on one weekend day during the summer, and conduct visual assessments of cyanobacteria throughout the summer. The Working Group accepted the recommendations, with the Subgroup to complete the details.

New Business

Natural Resource Monitoring

Melissa Coppola presented a draft Natural Resource Monitoring Plan to the Working Group. The Plan encompasses a count of grassleaf goldenrod stems, estimation of hairy hudsonia cover, photodocumentation, and a presence/absence assessment of disturbance. The Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) will implement the Plan throughout the OLNA in May (hairy hudsonia) and August (all elements); volunteers are welcome.

Canoe and Kayak Access

After brief discussion, a majority of the Working Group elected to allow canoes and kayaks to haul out on a small area at one end of the public access area. The Working Group will be re-evaluated the decision at the end of the 2009 boating season.

Beach Clean Up

Bryan Nowell is coordinating the beach clean up with other Working Group members and Dennis Gould of Totem Pole Park. The clean up will occur in May prior to Memorial Day. The exact date cannot be determined until the lake thaws and the water level recedes. Details of the clean up are under development. DRED will evaluate the potential for placing the fence and signs on clean-up day.

Communication

The Working Group engaged in an energetic discussion about communicating management and use of the OLNA to boaters and the broader community. Topics include the special character of the OLNA, the role of the Working Group, and rules for public use. The Working Group would produce a brochure for distribution at marinas,

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other boat launches, camps and campgrounds, safe boating courses, town halls, and through lake associations. Other outlets for OLN information include select person meetings, print and visual media, the internet, lake association meetings, and camp barbeques. NHB will develop a companion biodiversity guide. DRED will be responsible for the production and deployment of no trespassing, public use area, rules, and other signs.

Wrap Up and Looking Forward

Don Kent indicated he would revise the draft management plan and circulate it for Working Group comment.

Action Items

1. The Water Quality Subgroup will finalize plans for sampling.
2. DRED will produce a sign indicating the canoe and kayak haul out area.
3. Bryan Nowell will develop details of the beach clean up and communicate the information to the Working Group.
4. Don Kent will draft a brochure for communicating management and use of the OLN to boaters and the broader community, and circulate the brochure to the Working Group for comment.
5. Don Kent will revise the draft management plan and circulate to the Working Group for comment.

Next Meeting

The OLN Working Group will meet 1 to 4 PM, 24 April 2009 at the Freedom Town Hall.

Donald M. Kent

Donald M. Kent, Ph.D.
Chair, OLN Working Group