

**CWC WOH Sporting Advisory Committee**

**October 17, 2017**

**MINUTES**

**Members Present:** Alan Budine, Michael Giuliano, Paul Lenz (NYCDEP), Alan Martel, Steven Roff, and Bill Sharick.

**Others:** Alan Rosa (CWC), and Timothy Cox (CWC), Tom Davidock, Recreation Program Supervisor, NYC DEP

1. Called to Order at 6:00 PM

2. The April 18, 2017 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Land Acquisition Update

Paul Lenz introduced Tom Davidock, the new Recreation Program Supervisor at the NYCDEP. Alan Rosa also welcomed Bill Sharick, new SAC member. Mr. Davidock noted that NYCDEP has received a lot of request for hiking trails and spent some time developing the trail policy. Recreational boating season this summer also was busy. DEP issued 678 recreational boating tags, including 380 seasonal to 300 temporary tags. Kayaks were are most popular boats for boating on the reservoirs. In additional, there were tags issued for 167 canoes, 27 row boats, 3 sail boats, but no scull boats. The rental program numbers will be coming in within the next week or two. Tag numbers are starting to go down rental numbers are going up little by little.

6,000 boats have been renewed and untagged boats are being removed from reservoirs. Boats removed are now being sold in an online auction

**Flood Buyout**

Committee members asked about Flood Buy Out Properties. Paul Lenz explained that Flood Buyout properties can be owned by New York City or by town. Many parcels will be too small to offer hunting oppurtunities but some may be available for stream access for fishing.

**Recreation Properties**

Paul Lenz also noted that some large acreage parcels are in the process of being purchased and will open up shortly thereafter for recreation. These include a 1,000 acre parcel in the Town of Walton with good hunting habitat, a 503 acre parcel in Jewett and a 300 acre parcel in the Town of Walton. Paul stated that the Walton parcel has never been hunted before.

#### 4. Trail Policy

Committee discussed trail policy being developed by NYCDEP, including discussions with the Town of Windham. Paul Lenz stated that due to the number of requests, NYCDEP is developing a trail policy. NYCDEP received a request for mountain biking trail on NYCDEP land in Windham that wasn't approved. Paul noted that NYCDEP has allowed biking on and former railroad beds and that's something they will continue to do, but mountain biking trails aren't expected to be approved now or in the future. Paul stated that NYCDEP spoke with other public water supplies and they do not allow mountain biking on their lands. Paul also noted that the Watershed MOA clearly states that the focus is on fishing, hunting, hiking, and traditional use of the land but it also says mountain biking is not something likely to be approved on NYCDEP lands. Paul stressed that NYCDEP is interested in working with the region as a whole and said that State lands do allow for mountain biking. Trail policy will be printed and shared once it's finalized.

Alan Rosa responded that he agreed with Paul's summary and recalled that the Watershed MOA back in 1997 stated that mountain biking wasn't something that would likely be allowed on NYCDEP lands. Alan asked Committee members if they had any views. Bill Sharick responded says it's a pretty rough sport for trails. Other members agreed that mountain biking can be destructive on land. Alan concluded that the SAC Committee was created to advise the CWC Board and the individuals interested in pursuing mountain biking can speak to the Coalition of Watershed Towns.

#### 5. Recreational Use Regulation Revisions.

Paul Lenz explained that NYCDEP plans to finalize revisions to the Recreational Use Regulations by the end of this year with outreach in early 2018. NYCDEP hopes to have the revisions in place by the end of March 2018 Paul explained that the regulations are planned to include an expansion the Recreational Boating season, which would now start May 1<sup>st</sup>, rather than Memorial day weekend and would end November 1<sup>st</sup> instead of Columbus day weekend.

#### Recreational Uses and Specific City Owned Properties

Paul Lenz discussed parcel #297 with the Committee. NYCDEP would like to open the parcel as a public access area. The Town of Olive passed a resolution stating the Town desires that the parcel be closed. Paul stated the SAC Committee previously recommended the parcel as a public access area asked if the Committee had any opinions now. Bill Sharick asked why the Town opinion matters. Paul Lenz and Alan Rosa explained that the town like SAC is noticed on acquisitions and can express their opinion to NYCDEP but NYCDEP has the final say. Paul and Alan also noted they try to be transparent and avoid situations where a neighbor is the primary influence for a town's recommendation. Alan Rosa stated there is

no reason this area can't be open. Alan Martel agreed says no justification to close. Committee also discussed parking, including possible parking on nearby State land access. Upon motion of Al Budine and second by Al Martel, SAC unanimously recommended that parcel 297 in the Town of Olive be designated as a public access area.

Paul Lenz and Committee also discussed parcel 3630 in the Town of Roxbury. Alan Rosa stated that the Town Supervisor wasn't aware the City had purchased the property or that it was closed to recreational use. Paul Lenz stated NYCDEP will draft a letter stating their intention to designate the property as a public access upon motion by Al Martel and second by Mike Guliano, SAC unanimously recommended that parcel 3630 in the Town of Roxbury be designated as a public access area

6. Other.

Tom Davidock and Paul Lenz said that NYCDEP is expanding the outreach events they go to. This year, NYCDEP worked with NYSDEC on family fishing day, held pop-up events to talk to the public about invasive species and different recreation opportunities and reservoir clean-up days. Last evening NYCDEP staff hosted a presentation last night about deer biology down in Neversink, invited all of access permeant holders, about 60 people attended. Tom Davidock requested SAC members contact him if they would want NYCDEP to be at an event or even need materials for an event.

7. Schedule Next Meeting – Later dates in 2017 will be held open for a possible meeting regarding revised recreational use regulations.

8. Adjourned at 7:15 pm