

CWC WOH Sporting Advisory Committee

December 19, 2017

MINUTES

Members Present: Herbert DeWitt, Michael Guiliano, Paul Lenz, Steve Roff

Others: Alan Rosa (CWC), and Timothy Cox (CWC), Jason Merwin (CWC)

1. Called to Order at 6:00 PM
2. The October 17, 2017 minutes were approved by Herbert DeWitt and seconded by Michael Guiliano
3. Recreational Rules
Paul Lenz discussed proposed changes to the NYCDEP Recreation Rules, governing recreation activities on NYCDEP owned land

Boating

Paul explained that the current rules allow for the recreation boating season on several reservoirs. The proposed changes will expand the season from Memorial Day Weekend to Columbus Day Weekend to May 1st to November 1st.

In addition, although recreational boats, kayaks, canoes will remain allowed on certain reservoirs, sail boats will no longer be allowed. Paul noted that sail boats are not used that much. He stressed that there currently are no size limits for the sailboats and some parts of sail boats are very susceptible to invasive species. The sail boats are too heavy to carry down to the water and there are a lot of parts on a sail boat that needs to be steam cleaned. DEP is concerned with the invasive species found in EOH waters and trying to prevent the same occurrence in the West of Hudson watershed.

The regulations changes would also limit the number of boats one person can have registered. Paul explained that people with multiple boats are going to be grandfathered to keep those boats registered, but once they get rid of one of the boats, , the number of boats they can have will be limited. The boat tags are only for 2 years right now and they are going to now extend that to 4 years.

Also regarding boats, the regulations will now allow boaters to loan their boat to someone else for the day. The person borrowing the boat still will need their own access permit as well as a note from the owner letting them borrow the boat. There is also going to rule change to allow a club to put boats under a “club” name so anyone in that club can use the boats as long as they have an access permit.

Regarding boat storage, NYCDEP is looking into requiring kayaks and canoe owners to place boats on racks to avoid space conflicts with existing boat storage. Lastly, for expired boat tags, the fee will be doubled to \$2. There will be a \$120 fee for DEP to pull the boat and every day it is stored is going to be a \$2 fee.

Expanded Uses

Service dogs are going to be allowed to be used on public access areas with a permit and on day use areas. The Ashokan is a no pet area, but since it's a public area, they are going to allow service dogs.

Other minor changes include:

- School issued identification as an acceptable form of ID for access permits.
- Trail cameras are going to be allowed
- New special event area for activities allowing participants to be exempt from having an access permit (such as a reservoir cleanup day)
- Public access areas are open for hunting, fishing, hiking, and/or trapping. The current rules say to be a public access area, you need to allow all 4 of these uses. The new definition will be changing the definition to it having to be at least 1 of these activities. They are going to give the ability to open a special hunt section – not open to the general public, but a certain group. They are going to allow ice augers and power drills. They do not want propane augers because they are worried that there will be propane tanks left on the reservoir.

Prohibitions

Smoking is going to be prohibited, including electronic cigarettes.

Drones are also going to be prohibited from landing and taking off from City owned land. For a video or film, a drone could be allowed under the use of a land permit.

Biking is prohibited as well on City land unless on a day use permitted area. Bikes are allowed with a land use permit but not allowed as a recreational activity.

Requirements

Blaze orange will be required for small game hunting. There is no requirement on square inch, but just a hat or vest needs to be visible when walking around. This will not be required for spring turkey hunting.

The regulations will also require a display of a back tag when hunting. Alan Rosa stated that in the Adirondack or Catskill State Parks, the State does not require backtags. Paul responded that DEP will check on these rules and requirements.

The regulations will also now make clear that if you are going to carry a pistol or a handgun on City land, you still need to have a valid handgun license.

Paul Lenz concluded that when once legal review of the rule changes are completed, there will be public hearings for comments. CWC SAC will also receive the draft amendments for any comments.

Other

The Intergovernmental agreement with Ulster County for the rail trial on Ashokan Reservoir lands is complete It includes an operation and maintenance plan as well as a security plan.

Adjourned at 6:46 pm