

## Water Access Management Committee Minutes

June 26, 2024

Members present: Bob Ater, Clarke Cooper, Nick Stoneman, Jack Witham

Public present: Caitlin MacKenzie, Katie Smith, Rand Smith

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

The specific purpose of this meeting was public discussion of operating regulations for the water access property, to be proposed as an ordinance at the Special Town Meeting in July.

Proposed name for the property: Packard's Landing.

Proposed regulations to be enacted by ordinance and posted on site (exact wording TBD):

- Area closed outside operating hours -- half hour before sunrise to half hour after sunset -- with possible exception for operational purposes;
- No fires;
- No fireworks;
- No camping;
- No parking on Indian Rest Rd.;
- No overnight parking;
- No tobacco;
- No alcohol;
- No cannabis;
- No destruction or defacing of facilities;
- No discharge of firearms.

Additional signage will be posted to indicate that the area by the water is for unloading of boats only, not parking, and that parking is only permitted in the parking area at the west end of the property.

The regulations will be posted in the parking area and at the waterside.

Other proposed signage includes a QR code linked to an online tide chart, and a go/no-go gauge showing when it is and is not appropriate to launch a boat.

CM suggests listing the site with the Maine Island Trail Association, as a convenient place to publish tide information, etc. RS expresses concern over excessive publicity.

BA and JW describe further grants that may be available from Inland Fisheries & Wildlife and Land For Maine's Future.

RS is opposed to including any exceptions to the open hours restriction on grounds that putting a loophole in the regulation means that exceptions may be arbitrarily granted. BA and CC suggest that this is not to permit events, but only to allow flexibility for operations and maintenance.

KS asks about litter control. BA says that litter policy signs have been provided by the state. Litter pickup is to be performed by volunteers.

CM has questions about the barn and whether regulations are required to limit its use. BA says this will not be necessary at this point because for the present the barn is excluded from any plans.

CM suggests the amenity of loaner life jackets. BA says there are liability concerns with providing equipment and this would go beyond what we are prepared to do at this stage.

KS asks about dog policy (being basically in favor of dog use). No dog restrictions have been considered yet beyond existing state requirements. Some discussion of dog waste follows. All present are opposed to dog waste.

BA describes the fence that has just been erected by the parking lot to make the property line clear.

JW raises a question about whether towns, which are empowered to prohibit fireworks in the town as a whole, are also empowered to prohibit fireworks in specific locations. We don't know.

The issues of fishing and swimming at the site are discussed. No regulations are considered so far.

The issue of trailers in the parking lot is raised. BA says that no regulation has been considered yet, but that the parking lot does not readily accommodate trailers; as with many issues, it remains to be seen what may be necessary.

JW mentions the possibility of prohibiting commercial use of the site. It is unknown whether this is possible.

NS asks whether it is possible to post No Parking signs on Indian Rest Rd. This is a question that has to be referred to the Roads Commission.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.