



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION
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November 27, 2017

Representative Daniel Wolf
PO Box 88
Newbury, NH 03255-0088

Dear Representative Wolf,

Thank you for keeping us informed of your thoughts and plans regarding an alternative location to the Wild Goose boat launch site. As a follow up to our meetings and discussions, I want to confirm the nature of our discussions and the position of the NH Division of Parks regarding any expansion of the boat launch at Sunapee State Park.

The position of the agency regarding the use of Sunapee State Beach for a proposed expanded boat launch facility is well documented through letters of opposition from four different Commissioners of the agency back to 1997. However, we have continued to be approached to use the park beach as an alternative boat launching site to the Wild Goose site proposed by the NH Fish and Game Department.

In our efforts to be a responsive agency we try to listen and thoughtfully approach issues even when a project or proposal is counter to the primary mission and direction of the park system. We hope that you would agree that we have been responsive, providing an unbiased review of the plans you provided (update attached) and outlining some of the issues associated with an expansion of the boat launch at the state park. However, while we strive to be open minded and approachable, I want to reiterate that does not mean we support the underlying plan you presented. And we both recognize there may be impacts on the visitors and park we are not aware of until any proposal is explored further.

Sunapee State Park Beach is a state park. The park provides affordable opportunities for the general public to enjoy a beach on Lake Sunapee. It is also one of the few parks in the system that provides over \$50,000 in net revenue to help support the park system as a whole. As we have consistently stated during our several meetings, the availability of the beach to the public, the flow of traffic, the ability to charge fees, the revenue generating capacity of the park and equity between users cannot be affected adversely and should be enhanced with any future investments at the park. Specifically:

- There cannot be any loss of parking spaces. We are in direct conflict with our statutory mission if we decrease public access to enjoy the park. As I know from personal experience,

this beach is a special recreational asset accessible to many people living and working in the region. We are unable to meet current demand for parking. And while we recognize the existing boat launch serves as an amenity to the park visitors who also want to enjoy the lake, if the existing boat launch was not there we could use those spaces to help meet the demand for beach parking on busy days.

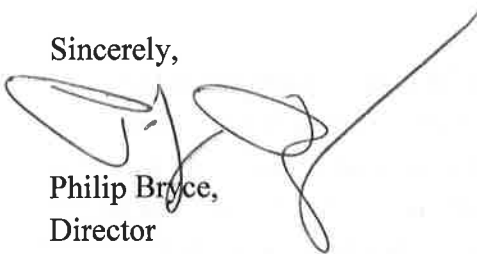
- The flow of traffic within the park and outside of park cannot be made worse and should be improved. For example, the backup of vehicles out to the traffic circle has been a longstanding issue and presents both a safety hazard and creates frustrated park visitors waiting in line.
- All entrants to the park must pay a day use fee in accordance with the fee package approved by the fiscal committee. In addition to providing a long term sustainable source of revenue for the park and park system, the collection of fees from all users of the park is fair. At Wellington State Park, users of the Fish and Game boat launch enter the park for free. Even given the distance between the boat launch and park facilities, these users regularly use the rest of the park but are not paying a fee. This is unfair to paying visitors.

I am very concerned that the Sunapee State Park beach and its visitors will be compromised as a result of the desire to find an alternative to the Wild Goose site. The fact that we are engaging openly and objectively by setting out these minimum requirements is a major change in past responses of the agency, but as we discussed, is not meant as the first step in a negotiation. We are not in a position to support any expansion at Sunapee State Park that fails to satisfy these conditions.

Sunapee State Park beach is a state park. Any further investment in the park must be considered in the context of what is best for the park, the park system and its visitors.

Thank you again for engaging us in this discussion. It has been good to work with you and I have appreciated your willingness to listen and respond accordingly. I hope that setting these points out will be helpful and further reinforce the discussions we've had through the months.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip Bryce", with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Philip Bryce,
Director

CC: Jeffrey Rose, Commissioner DNCR
Harold Parker, Governor's Office

PAB/str