



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DEPARTMENT of RESOURCES and ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION of PARKS and RECREATION  
172 Pembroke Road P.O. Box 1856 Concord, New Hampshire 03302-1856

R. SEAN O'KANE  
Commissioner

(603)271-3556  
FAX: (603)271-3553  
WEB: www.nhstateparks.org  
E-MAIL: nhparks@dred.state.nh.us

Director  
April 12, 2005

The Honorable Harry C. Merrow  
NH House of Representatives, Dist. 03  
PO Box 94  
Center Ossipee, NH 03814-0094

Dear Representative Merrow,

As promised, this letter is to provide you with an update on DRED's review of the Town of Ossipee proposal to lease a portion of Ossipee Lake Natural Area for a public town beach. Should the Town wish to pursue the lease proposal, these items will need to be carried out and funded by the Town.

DRED's Park Lands Management Team (PLMT) discussed this proposal at their March 15, 2005 monthly meeting. PLMT reviews projects on State Park lands for technical merit regarding recreational, cultural, and natural resources. A summary of their recommendations are as follows:

- A more detailed proposal is needed that explicitly addresses the following issues:
- Plans for protection of the rare sandy pond shore natural communities and rare plant species located on the property, including monitoring and enforcement strategies.
- Plans for protection of the unique archeological resources located on the property (see Division of Historical Resources recommendations below).
- Plans for the management of the public, including permitted and prohibited uses, control of access by land and water, staffing, monitoring and enforcement strategies. The team expressed concern regarding the constraints (carrying capacity) of a 600' beachfront and how capacity would be managed.
- Successful management of public access might best be achieved through the Town's management of the Lake Ossipee Natural Area shoreline and of the Pine River boat launch as a single operational unit.
- Discuss with DES the feasibility of obtaining wetlands permits for the construction of the parking lot, restroom, and boardwalk. Wetland issues may render land access as unfeasible; the Town may wish to consider an "access by water only" beach area.
- Discuss with Department of Safety, Marine Patrol how boating access can be managed and a "no rafting zone" be established along the shoreline, as requested by Commissioner O'Kane (see letter to you dated January 28, 2005).

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MORE BELOW

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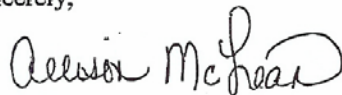
- Contact NH Fish and Game to determine if there are any rare and endangered wildlife concerns on the property.

DRED discussed this proposal with the Division of Historical Resources (DHR) at the April 4, 2005 monthly meeting. A summary of their recommendations are as follows:

- The property contains reported and verified archeological findings. DHR would officially review this proposal under Council of Resources and Development (CORD) or Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 compliance will be required for any wetland permitted work.
- Based on the known archeological sensitivity, a Phase I archeological survey will be required. A more detailed Phase II Evaluation is likely to be requested if the project moves forward. Such work is conducted by certified archeological surveyors. DHR can provide a list of certified consultants.
- The extent of the survey area will be based upon the details of the proposed facilities, such as specific location and size – exact proposal details are needed. Additionally, DHR must consider areas where there is potential effect. Therefore, the survey area may extend beyond the proposed lease boundary if the public is likely to go beyond the lease boundary.
- Natural Heritage Bureau (NHB) expressed concern over the potential damage the archeological survey may have on the rare plant species that are on the property. The location of important plant species may greatly impact the acceptable location of Phase I test pits. Archeology surveyors and NHB will need to coordinate site work efforts. NHB field staff are project funded.
- DHR's preferred recommendation is that no development be pursued. However, if DRED and the town wish to continue with the proposal, a Phase I archeological survey will be needed and a Phase II evaluation will be very likely.

There is much here for the Town to consider. Feel free to share this information with the Board of Selectmen and other town officials, as the Town deliberates its next steps regarding its proposal. I can be reached at 603-271-3556; I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Allison McLean  
Director

cc: R. Sean O'Kane, DRED Commissioner  
James McConaha, Director Division of Historical Resources

AM/ttl