

Town of Chatham

Minutes to Public Hearing held on February 22 , 2018

Present: Micah Voter, Jason Eastman, Wayne Infinger, Bill Perry, Tom O'Brien, Sue Crowley, Jeff Stone, Doug MacPherson, Lisa Lewis, Bill Briggs, Ron Briggs, Ann Fargo, Richard Fargo, Ellie Eastman

Wayne Infinger explained the purpose to the public hear. (Parking policy and Beach regulations)

Wayne stated that the Selectmen did not have the authority to limit horse power/ motor boats but that they could establish regulations for use of the boat ramp and use of the town beach. He also stated that the Selectmen would have the regulations ready to vote on by the April Selectmen's meeting and that the Selectmen would vote on the regulations at that meeting.

Wayne then asked for comments from the people in the room.

Lisa Lewis- no comment

Richard Fargo- The boat launch was badly dug up a couple years ago and that Bill Briggs had to repair it. He would like this to be prevented if possible.

Ann Fargo- Asked if the town owned the land. She was told that Duprey/Layne deeded it to the town for public use 50 years ago.

Sue Crowley- Would like to see the beach fixed up with new sand, brush trimmed back.

Doug MacPherson- Good idea to address the issues but wonders how the regulations will be enforced. He was told that the fish and game would not enforce it. Carroll County Sheriff could pass by from time to time.

Kim Callen- A non-resident was seen trying to back his boat out and rutted up the launch. People had left litter behind that her family picked up. Would like to see the beach/boat ramp restricted to only resident use.

Jeff Stone- A lot of traffic, not been able to access the lake. He would hate to have to restrict access but they (non-residence) are not paying for the use of the lake. Chrystal Lake requires a parking permit. Maybe give a warning for the first offense and is willing to help monitor.

Bill Briggs- Most towns have beaches that are restricted to residence only. Water level is high so the beach seems smaller, in the 60's the town kept the beach cleaned up, parking at turn arounds is making it difficult to plow and sand (Toad Hill road, Barnes road and Beach road), there are public safety issues due to the parking.

Ron Briggs- The boaters and ice fisherman are responsible for there not being enough parking. Suggests a gate with a key. Worried about mil foil.

Bill Perry- Boat ramp need to be fixed up. Need permit to fix it up. Signage to inform people, make more room above beach to provide more parking. (Bill Briggs suggested that cutting the trees would cause a problem with water drainage.) Stated that the Selectmen could levy fines for those in violation of the regulations.

Tom O'Brien- Winter ice fishing seems to be the biggest problem. Ramp needs to be fixed up, brush taken care of, make use for residents only and put up a gate to block the boat launch.

Wayne Infinger- wondered about how people would feel about restricting access because we currently send our kids to surrounding towns for education, we send our garbage to Lovell, and there are generations of people that live on the lake and have always used the boat ramp and beach. There is no other public access on the lake.

Bill Perry- let the people that live on the lake continue to have access.

Lisa Lewis- Charge for non-residents to use the boat launch.

Kim Callen- Charge for people that live on the lake but are non-residents.

A suggestion was made to contact Steve Goldberg to see how they restrict access to the Lovell beach.

A suggestion was made to grandfather people that currently live on the lake.

Wayne Infinger- Fish and Game (David Patch) has stated that they will no longer stock the lake if the boat launch is restricted. We could continue to allow people to use the boat launch but restrict parking and the use of the beach and they would continue to stock the lake. 9 people were in favor of having a gate.

The gate would cost possibly \$1,200 to \$1,500.

It was suggested that there be a sign put up at the end of Beach road stating that there is not public access. It was also suggested that it be published in the local paper.

Meeting Adjourned.