
Subject: Fwd: Hammond Pond Wild Forest - Draft Unit Management Plan

From: Chris Hyde (cdhyde1@gmail.com)

To: camptouchstone@yahoo.com;

Date: Monday, January 14, 2019 10:24 PM

Thank you,
Chris Hyde

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Chris Hyde** <cdhyde1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 14, 2019, 12:40 PM

Subject: Re: Hammond Pond Wild Forest - Draft Unit Management Plan

To: 65 Floyd & Sue Barwig <couchrock@nycap.rr.com>

Floyd and Sue,

Thank you for your response to me and I letter to the DEC. This is going to be a great battle that we can not lose. We will be collecting reponses (so far none in favor of the changes) and continue discussion with officials on all levels.

Thank you for support.

Chris Hyde

Thank you,
Chris Hyde

On Mon, Jan 14, 2019, 12:08 PM Floyd & Sue Barwig <couchrock@nycap.rr.com> wrote:

Dear Chris,

The note below is the question I just submitted to DEC asking if they plan to reopen the comment period on the Draft UMP and providing reasons for them to do so. For us, their proposed changes to the boat launch would be devastating. Beyond impacting fishermen, who as Rolf said don't fish from an inner tube, there are people like us who have no way to launch or retrieve a boat other than at the boat launch. DEC's failure to engage impacted property owners on the lake in making this change is outrageous.

As I mention in the note below, I will be submitting more detailed comments within the next few days or so. I will copy you. This is a situation where DEC and APA need to be seriously challenged.

Floyd

Floyd E. Barwig

60 Ben Hunter Road, No. 2

Crown Point, NY 12928 (no mail service available)

and

106 Abbey Road

Poestenkill, NY 12140 (address of record)

e-mail: couchrock@nycap.rr.com

January 14, 2019

Dear NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioners and Staff:

I am writing to inquire if you have plans to reopen the comment period for the Hammond Pond Wild Forest - Draft Unit Management Plan (Draft UMP). If not, I am petitioning you to do so.

My wife, Susan G. Barwig, and I own a property on the north side of Eagle Lake. The Draft UMP proposes radical changes to the Eagle Lake boat launch that will drastically damage our use of the Lake for recreational boating and potentially damage the value of our property in the process.

We became aware of it only when, on January 11, 2019, we read the article posted about it on suncommunitynews.com on January 10, 2019. Linking to the Draft UMP and associated documents we have discovered that the comment period has already closed before we were even made aware of the Draft UMP and the proposed radical changes in access to the Lake.

While the use of general public notice may be all that is required when presenting a plan for a large area such as the Draft UMP, further, individualized notice should be used for specific actions that dramatically impact small communities of people. The property owners on Eagle Lake are a relatively small group (100 +/-) whose contact information can be easily obtained from Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. (ELPOI). They maintain information for both ELPOI members and non-members alike. Alternatively, tax records for Essex County and the Towns of Crown Point and Ticonderoga can provide this information. Failure to reach out to these impacted citizens and provide them with meaningful opportunities to interact with your planning process is egregious. This lack of notice alone, particularly when you have announced the Draft UMP when many seasonal residents are away and even some local residents have gone south for the winter, coupled with a change in traditional use so drastic, calls for a reopening of comments.

There are, however, more reasons to reopen the comment period.

The Draft UMP mischaracterizes the generations' long intensity of use of Eagle Lake. Eagle Lake is not, and for decades has not been, like Fleming Pond or a similar water body, DEC arbitrary definitions of Wild Forest and Intensive Use notwithstanding.

The Draft UMP contains inaccuracies or misrepresentations. An obvious one is the claim that the current parking area provides for 6 parking spaces; thus, providing 6 parking spaces in the future will be a continuation of current circumstances. No one could ever write that if they had been to the site on a summer weekend. On a busy day 6 or more vehicles can be seen parked on each side of the path to the actual boat ramp. In addition, multiple vehicles and trailers will be found in the snow plow turn-around slightly west and across Route 74. The Draft UMP dramatically curtails current parking at the boat launch. The record needs to be corrected.

The Draft UMP does not even identify, let alone analyze or propose appropriate remediation for the hazards that will be created by compelling more people to drive across heavily travelled, 55 mph,

Route 74 to park in the snow plow turn-around and return to the boat launch on foot at a point where long distance visibility on Route 74 is questionable and no pedestrian walkway along the road exists.

The Draft UMP makes no mention of how the proposed barrier will prevent residents such as ourselves from launching boats (that never leave the lake for another body of water) in the spring, retrieving them in the fall for dry land storage, or taking them to a local marina for service as periodically required. There is no analysis of the issue, discussion of the likely preposterous and expensive solutions that will be required of existing residents by the Draft UMP to lift boats larger than kayaks over the proposed barrier or find an alternative on a lake with no commercial marina.

Options to the proposed barrier are not identified and analyzed in the Draft UMP. Can an inspection and wash station be installed on site or in the snow plow turn-around? Can use of the inspection and wash station on Route 74 near Schroon River be used to mitigate concerns on Eagle Lake? The Draft UMP doesn't even ask the questions. Instead, it leaps to a singular, drastic, ill-considered approach without adequate justification or consideration of impact.

The Draft UMP, by dismissively contravening decades of accepted local practice and destroying realistic access to Eagle Lake for many citizens creates the potential for serious local conflict. While the Draft UMP is very concerned about someone without authorization mowing a small patch of lawn at the Crown Point Beach, it makes no comment on DEC actions potentially creating a confrontation at the boat launch that could grow to be similar to the closing of Crane Pond Road and the debacle that ensued.

For all of these reasons and more, the record cries out to be reopened. I respectfully implore you to do so.

In the belief that you will reopen the comment period, I will provide more detailed comments shortly.

Sincerely,

Floyd E. Barwig