



**State Land Committee
July 16, 2020**

The State Land Committee convened at 3:00 p.m.

State Land Committee Members Present:

John Ernst, Committee Chair, Arthur Lussi, Dr. Chad Dawson, Mark Hall, and Joseph Zalewski (DEC)

Other Members and Designees Present:

Bradley Austin (ESD) Presiding Member, Daniel Wilt, and Matt Tebo (DOS)

Local Government Review Board

Gerald Delaney, Executive Director

Agency Staff Present:

Terry Martino, Christopher Cooper, Richard Weber, Walt Link, Matt Kendall, and Annemarie Peer

Approval of Draft Committee Minutes for May 14, 2020

By a motion made by John Ernst, seconded by Art Lussi, the May minutes were approved.

Essex Chain Lakes Unit Management Plan (UMP) Corrie Magee, Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)

Ms. Magee (DEC) addressed the Board asking for an amendment to the 2016 Essex Chain Lakes Management Complex Plan which is located in Hamilton and Essex County, and is approximately 6,200 acres.

She said that there are two purposes of this amendment. One is to remove campfire prohibition at 11 waterfront tent sites. The second is to improve the Outer Gooley Parking Area (equestrians).

Ms. Magee started with the campfire tent sites. She showed examples through pictures of some tent sites and charts showing the decrease in usage over the past few years.

She said that they would like to increase public use and allowing campfires may increase usage. Since there are many other alternatives to fire for heat and cooking such as camp stoves there would be minimal disruption to the sites. There would also be fire rings on the sites made by on site materials.

Ms. Smith asked what the fire rings would be made of.

Walt Link, APA, said it could be as simple as a ring made of rocks.

Ms. Smith also asked about the danger of invasive species, Ms. Magee answered that firewood would have to be brought in from within a 50-mile radius.

Ms. Magee continued onto the second amendment which would be to improve the Outer Gooley Parking Area. It now has space for six parking vehicles, and they plan to have six vehicles and trailers reclaiming unused open areas. There is a building that has been condemned that would be torn down to make room for more parking and an informational kiosk.

Mr. Ernst asked when will the house be torn down.

Ms. Magee was unsure of the time frame.

Ms. Smith asked if they had a number of spaces that would be needed for equestrian use.

Ms. Magee showed a trail map and said that there would be enough trails for a ride for multiple days.

Dr. Dawson questioned the number six for parking spaces.

Ms. Magee said that is not necessarily the set number, however she has never seen more than that number of trailers at this location and for planning the Department only plans for parking lots with a minimum of 5 spaces.

Ms. Smith asked who would be monitoring the campfire use.

Ms. Magee responded seasonal workers.

Mr. Weber said that they were recommending a joint public comment period between DEC and APA from July 17 to August 14, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Ernst, seconded by Mr. Hall the Committee approved it to go to public comment.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Mr. Ernst, Committee Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.