

Meeting Notes

Highland Lake Fish Stocking and Boat Access

August 30, 2011

Attendance: Nathan Poore, Ralph Johnson, Tom Bannon, Mike Fasulo, Faith Varney, Susan Landry, Julie Motherwell, and Greg Scott.

There was a general discussion about MDIFW recent letter stating fish stocking would be suspended unless the town supports an enhanced boat access site that would accommodate larger boats. The group of attendees, other than Ralph Johnson, was in agreement that the stocking should continue and that boat access should not be enhanced to allow larger boats. Mr. Johnson expressed his dissenting position based on his agreement that the state policy is a good policy.

Attendees noted that there were many issues to consider including the following:

1. Mil Foil threat. Larger boats will come on trailers and trailers have a tendency to carry invasive species more often than non-trailerred boats.
2. DOC management. There was concern that the DOC struggles to manage the current boat launch area. If this is the case, then how will they manage a more complex boat launch operation?
3. Much of the cold water fish are caught through the ice. The beneficiaries of the stocking program are from ice fishing more so than boat fishing.
4. There are people with less than desirable intentions that frequent the current launch. This needs to be monitored by the police department.
5. The average boat size on the lake (from residents or renters) is very small and consistent with the types of boats that can currently be accommodated at the existing launch.
6. What is the actual cost of stocking?
7. Will MDIFW need support from all three towns?
8. We will schedule a future meeting to meet with MDIFW officials (October is preferred).