

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF PEMBROKE, NH
WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2007**

Attendance:

Laura Scott, Planning Director
Lea Anne Atwell, CC
Todd Terrien, PB and CC
Cindy Lewis, BOS
Troy Brown, Town Administrator
Russell Maille, PSNH
Brian Tufts, BOS
Ammy Heiser, CC
Stetson Heiser, CC
Burt Whittemore

Ayn Whytemare, CC
Carol Beritsmas, CC
Laura Whittemore
Matthew Bobla
Kevin Gagne, CC
Larry Preston, BOS
Harold Paulsen, Fire Department
Paulette Malo, Sewer Department
Steve Elliott, Fire Department
Scott Lane, Police Chief

A site walk of the White Sands Conservation property was held to discuss options for managing access to the White Sands parcel, which is owned by the Town of Pembroke. People gathered at the property at 6:30 pm and walked down to the White Sands “parking area” and the riverfront access point. The conservation signs marking the property corners have been vandalized. In addition, the old stone bridge has a large sinkhole, which may be a safety concern. Dirty diapers and trash were also noted in the parking area.

Once those in attendance had gathered at the riverfront access point, discussion took place regarding access to the property. PSNH actually owns a 100-ft wide strip of land that cuts through the middle of the parcel, which is currently used as an unofficial road to access the parking area. Previously, it was thought that PSNH just had an easement along this strip, but PSNH officials stated that they own the land. The Highway Department has historically maintained the unofficial road and the Town issues facility use permits for the parking area. However, there is no formal use agreement between the Town and PSNH.

There have been major issues with dumping of trash (e.g., tires, refrigerators, engine blocks, etc.) on the property. Currently, the Conservation Commission (CC) is responsible for maintaining the property. The CC is a volunteer board and does not have the resources to properly maintain the property. The only deed restrictions for the property are that it must be used for conservation, recreation or other Town use.

PSNH and the Town are considering placing a gate near the junction of White Sands Road and the PSNH service road to restrict vehicle access to the property. The intent is not to close the parcel to the public, but to restrict vehicle access to prevent illegal dumping and destruction of private/public property. It was also pointed out that the PSNH service road was once gated at both ends.

Concerns were raised about the ability of the Police Department to patrol the area if the gate would be put in place. Chief Lane said that the Police Dept. would still patrol the area and that Police, Fire, and Ambulance would have a key to the gate. Concerns were also raised regarding increased boater traffic. Ayn Whytemare raised concerns regarding increased pressure on her family's property, which is located adjacent to White Sands, should the gate be put in place. Russell Maille from PSNH was asked to speak. He said that he did not know of any similar situation with other PSNH property or rights-of-way. He indicated that PSNH had actually purchased this property from the Suncook Valley Railroad. On other properties where there is a dumping problem, PSNH's first line of defense is to install a gate. PSNH has a gate that they will pay to install.

General statements were made indicating that an estimated 50-75% of the people using the facility are not Pembroke residents; White Sands is a very popular recreation location. Prior to 1989, the parcel was not opened to the public. Issues of trash and human waste were brought up as well. A carry-in/carry-out policy would be the best at this point. It was agreed that while the gate may not solve all of the problems; it would be a good starting point.

Everyone walked back down to White Sands Road, near the Sewer pump station, to determine the best location for the gate. Everyone agreed that the best location would be on the PSNH service road (approximately 50 feet in from White Sands Road), near a small knoll on the south side of the road. A gate should be placed across the roadway and boulders should be placed from the gate to the knoll to block off large vehicle access. The option of placing other boulders to restrict access from other points was also discussed. The location of the gate in this area would allow for a small parking area. The area in front of the sewer pump station would be signed for no parking, to allow the sewer department to access the station.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Accepted by the Board of Selectmen

Brian B. Tufts, Chairperson

*Meeting notes taken by Lea Anne Atwell, Conservation Commission Member