

Town of Peacham - Select Board Meeting
August 19, 2020

Hello,

Thank you for giving me some time tonight. I am Martha Winston, current president of the Peacham Pond Association.

Tonight I would like to give a brief report on the Public Access Greeter Program operating at Peacham Pond. This is the third summer we have been running this program, each year using a grant from the state of Vermont administered by the Town of Peacham (thanks to Tom and Rebecca for all their time and support).

This spring, after writing the grant for the summer of 2020, the grant money was stalled due to COVID-19. The state was unsure of the safety issues in opening the boat accesses in general and then also having people interacting with the public as greeters. In mid-May we got the word that the grants would be made. Our greeter for the past two summers, Priscilla McCormick-Sampson agreed to work again and completed her online training the next week. She was able to go to work on Memorial Day weekend as planned. She follows the state protocols and wears a mask and socially distances from the boaters.

As you know, it has been a hot summer. Great boating and fishing weather. To date, Priscilla has logged close to 350 watercraft at the access, way up from the 250 she logged during the season last year. She inspects each boat and trailer for Aquatic Invasive Species. All boats are also drained of water before entering the pond.

To date, Peacham Pond is free of AIS, but there are many waterways in Vermont and surrounding states that have major problems. The cost in dollars, usability, and value can be very high if AIS enters the pond.

So, I am here to thank the Town of Peacham for supporting this program again this summer. The grant came through for \$3,558 this year. The Peacham Pond Association will be making a contribution to cover the salary of our greeter, so the Town will not need to contribute this year. Total cost should be about \$3,808.

Questions??

