

MEMORANDUM

TO: Cape Elizabeth Town Council
FROM: Conservation Commission
DATE: December 11, 2013
SUBJECT: Great Pond Boat Racks 2013 Season Report

Introduction

2013 is the fourth year of boat rack storage at Great Pond managed by the Town of Cape Elizabeth. The Boat Rack Program is operated on land owned by the Sprague Corporation in accordance with the terms of the easement granted to the Town of Cape Elizabeth. Below is a summary of this season's highlights.

Boat Permit Issuance

This is the third year that permits have been issued using a lottery system. Applications were solicited with articles in the Cape Courier and the town website. Eighty-one permit applications were submitted by the March 22, 2013 deadline. Four boat rack slots are limited to kayaks due to their size, so four applications were drawn from the kayak owners. From all remaining applications, twenty-eight applications were drawn. All applicants were notified by email or phone. Two of the original drawing applicants declined their permit and an additional 2 applications were drawn from the original pool. A third drawing was held to release the final unclaimed permit.

Demand for boat rack permits continues to grow (in the last 3 years an average of 20 additional applications each season), including requests from non-residents. Permit applicants have also visited town hall during the summer to complain about empty storage slots that are not in use.

Periodic inspections

Town staff made periodic inspections of the boat racks to keep records of usage and to inspect for activity not allowed by the Sprague Corporation easement. A permit holder contacted staff that a boat was stored in his assigned slot. Staff inspected the boat racks and found that Sea Spray Kayaking, affiliated with an end-of-year program at the high school, was storing canoes on the racks. The representative was asked to remove the boats.

This season, a boat was stolen from the racks when the lock was cut.

Inspections by staff indicate that four permit holders did not store a boat on the rack this summer. In a previous season, the Conservation Commission agreed that permit holders who did not store a boat would only be issued a permit for the following season if available permits exceeded applications received.

Three boats were left on the racks after the December 1st deadline. These permit holders have received a reminder to remove the boat, which they did.

Sprague Corporation

Staff contacted Sprague Corporation representative John Greene and no concerns were identified or complaints received this season.

Conclusion

No changes to the program are recommended. Applications for the 2014 season will be advertised on the town website in February with a submission deadline of mid-March, 2014.