

From: ANR - Great Hosmer Pond
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2017 2:10 PM
Subject: Great Hosmer Pond - An Update and Next Steps

Hello Great Hosmer Community,

Thank you for your patience and commitment to the continued use and enjoyment of Great Hosmer Pond. Over the last several months, the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation received substantial feedback from the community expressing a wide range of opinions. We met with the members of the Task Force this past May and discussed the proposed rulemaking process, the results of the survey distributed earlier this year, and how best to move forward in the coming months.

We have considered all options currently available to us and have made the decision to pursue rulemaking as a possible route to improve use and safety on Great Hosmer. We are writing to provide the Great Hosmer Pond Community with the proposed rule language. Please note that this is currently a **draft** of the proposed rule language – the Agency intends to file finalized rule language with the Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules (ICAR) on August 21, 2017. Should this language be approved, the rule will be filed with the Secretary of State and formal rulemaking will begin. This will trigger a formal comment period, in which the Agency will provide a written response to all submitted comments. The Agency will also hold a public hearing on the proposed language at least 30 days after the rule is noticed by the Secretary of State, which will provide an additional opportunity for feedback. The Agency anticipates that rulemaking will conclude by the end of the calendar year.

The draft proposed rule can be found here: <http://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/rulemaking/great-hosmer-pond>. The new text is underlined, and all other provisions are currently in the rule. Comments and any suggested alternatives can be submitted at any time to the following email address: ANR.GreatHosmerPond@vermont.gov.

The Agency has a regulatory mandate to manage all public waters so that all normal uses may be enjoyed in a safe and reasonable manner. **Should the community be able to demonstrate that a mutually acceptable alternative proposed rule or other solution has been reached that provides safe access to Great Hosmer for all users, the Agency is willing to suspend the rulemaking process.** At any point prior to the August 21st filing date or during the rulemaking process, the Agency will entertain alternative lake-use schedules or other solutions to address user conflict on the lake. We strongly encourage collaborative discussion among interested parties to ensure safe lake usage for all users. If the community is unable to agree on an alternative workable option that provides for safe lake access for all users, the Agency intends to move forward with formal rulemaking this fall.

We again thank you for your patience, and look forward to your participation and feedback as events progress this summer.

Sincerely,
Emily Boedecker, Commissioner
Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation