NEW YORK STATE

Department of Environmental Conservation

DIVISION OF LANDS & FORESTS

Northville Boat Launch

Amendment

to the

2006 Shaker Mountain Wild Forest

and

Northville Boat Launch

Unit Management Plan

Town of Northampton

Fulton County

DAVID A. PATERSON	ALEXANDER B. GRANNIS
Governor	*Commissioner*

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DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

ALEXANDER B. GRANNIS
COMMISSIONER

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12233-1010

OCT 14 2010

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: The Record

FROM: Alexander B. Grannis

SUBJECT: Northville Boat Launch

The Final UMP Amendment for the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest/Northville Boat Launch Unit Management Plan has been completed. The Final UMP Amendment is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan, the State Constitution, Environmental Conservation Law, and Department rules, regulations and policies. The Final UMP Amendment is hereby approved and adopted.

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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE ADIRONDACK PARK AGENCY
WITH RESPECT TO
NORTHVILLE BOAT LAUNCH
FINAL UNIT MANAGEMENT PLAN AMENDMENT

September 17, 2010

WHEREAS, Section 816 of the Adirondack Park Agency Act directs the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop, in consultation with the Adirondack Park Agency, individual management plans for units of land classified in the Master Plan for Management of State Lands and requires such management plans to conform to the general guidelines and criteria of the Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, in addition to such guidelines and criteria, the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan prescribes the contents of unit management plans and provides that the Adirondack Park Agency will determine whether a proposed individual unit management plan complies with such general guidelines and criteria; and

WHEREAS, the Agency approved a unit management plan for the Northville Boat Launch as part of the review of the unit management plan for the Shaker Mountain Wild Forest and Northville Boat Launch dated January, 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has prepared an amendment to the unit management plan for the Northville Boat Launch dated September, 2010, which proposes the construction of a universally accessible fishing pier to be funded by the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Environmental Conservation has provided information on the fishing pier project at the July Agency meeting and has consulted with the Adirondack Park Agency staff in the preparation of the proposed amendment; and

WHEREAS, construction of the proposed fishing pier and related infrastructure is considered to be a Type I action pursuant to 6 NYCRR Part 617.4 and the Department has filed a Determination of No Significant Environmental Impact which was published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on September 15, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Agency is requested to determine whether the proposed Northville Boat Launch UMP amendment is consistent with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Agency has reviewed the proposed Northville Boat Launch UMP amendment, the substance of which is the particular design of the proposed, universally accessible fishing pier set forth within;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency determines that the Northville Boat Launch Unit Management Plan amendment, dated September, 2010, complies with the guidelines and criteria of the Adirondack Park State Land Master Plan including the Guidelines for Management and Use of Intensive Use Areas and Campgrounds; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Adirondack Park Agency authorizes its Executive Director to advise the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation of the Agency's determination in this matter.

AYES: R. Booth, A. Lussi, C. Stiles, W. Thomas, L. Ulrich, F. W. Valentino, C. Wray, J. Fayle (DED), E. Lowe (DEC), R. Morgiewicz (DOS)

NAYS: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

ABSENT: F. Mezzano

INTRODUCTION

This amendment proposes the construction of a universally accessible fishing pier at the DEC Northville Boat Launch. The boat launch is classified as intensive use. It is located along State Highway 30 and encompasses approximately 3.2 acres. The site was acquired from the Hudson River – Black River Regulating District (HRBRRD) via transfer of jurisdiction in 1962. A unit management plan for the unit was completed in 2006.

The approved Shaker Mountain Wild Forest UMP states that this existing boat launch will be renovated, including docks, cribbing, and parking. The UMP does not specifically state that an accessible pier will be constructed, but it does say: "To the extent practical the Northville boat launch design and reconstruction will incorporate access features for people with disabilities." And: "This [preferred] alternative will… provide access opportunities for mobility impaired individuals."

The Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council (GSLAC) would like to purchase, and fund construction of, a DEC designed fishing pier at the boat launch. Annual installation and removal of the docks would become a DEC responsibility. The GSLAC receives funds from the FERC re-licensing of the E.J. West Hydroelectric Project, at the Conklingville Dam. Under terms of the settlement the Great Sacandaga Lake Advisory Council was formed to manage the Great Sacandaga Lake Enhancement Fund, with revenues exceeding $30,000 per year paid annually by the hydro-power entity.

The GSLAC feels that it would be a very well supported project and that all persons should be able to have access to fish in Great Sacandaga Lake. They have the support of the Town of Northampton and other groups around the lake.

Section VI – Special Area Management Plans

G. Northville Boat Launch Area

Proposed Management Policies/Actions:

The accessible fishing pier would be installed adjacent to the first parking area upon entering the boat launch site (Figure 1). The structure would include a 40 foot gangway that leads from the land to a 6 foot by 12 foot entrance platform, which in turn connects to a 6 by 24 foot platform (Figure 2). In addition, a stiff arm and two cables would extend from shore to the platform for stability in wind and currents. The gangway and stiff arm would be connected to the land by piles or a concrete base.

The relatively long gangway is needed to accommodate the large fluctuations in water levels that occur on Great Sacandaga Lake. The water elevation is typically lowered during summer and fall as per the flood control/low flow augmentation strategies. Lower water elevations increase the slope of the gangway, and too steep of a grade

would make the facility unusable for persons with disabilities. The change in slope is less for a long gangway than for a short structure.

The platform will be surfaced with IPE treated wood and will include railings constructed primarily of wood, similar to that shown in Figure 3. The gangway will be powder coated brown, and constructed of either aluminum or galvanized steel. The gangway will be a single piece to provide the strength needed for its 40 ft span. The metal gangway railings would be permanently attached, and provide necessary additional strength to the gangway.

The pier is not intended for the docking of boats, and the railings make the structure undesirable for such use. The railings are designed to prevent persons with disabilities from falling off the structure; a design which also makes it difficult for individuals to climb into or out of boats.

Only one tree (an unhealthy red maple approximately three inches in diameter) would need to be removed. The fishing pier would be removed from the water annually in about October, and reinstalled in about May, along with the other docks at the launch.

Figures 4 and 5 are photographs of the shore in the area where the pier would attach to the upland. Figures 6 and 7 are photographs from the water with buoys to indicate the approximate length and width of the proposed pier.

Alternatives:

The no action alternative (i.e. not providing the pier) would avoid the initial purchasing and installation costs, as well as the annual removal and reinstallation effort. However, DEC is committed to improving accessibility at its facilities, and currently there are no similar, universally accessible fishing opportunities on Great Sacandaga Lake or in the general area. This opportunity, utilizing non-government funds at a state owned site, is exceptional especially in these difficult fiscal times. DEC staff annually remove and reinstall other docks at the Northville boat launch, so the addition of this proposed pier fits well with current maintenance operations.

Figure 1: Proposed location of the universally accessible pier.

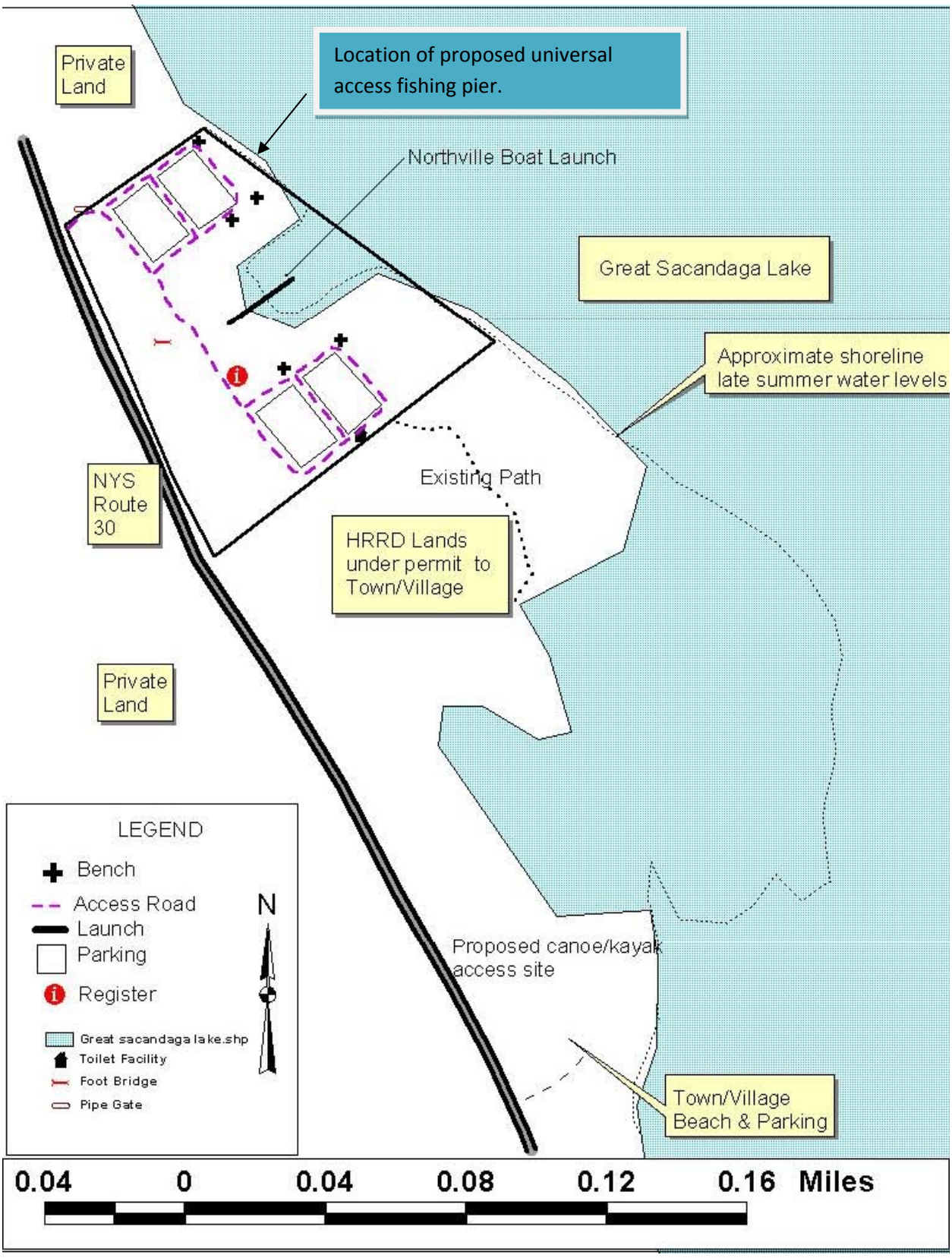


Figure 2: Dimensions of the proposed structure.

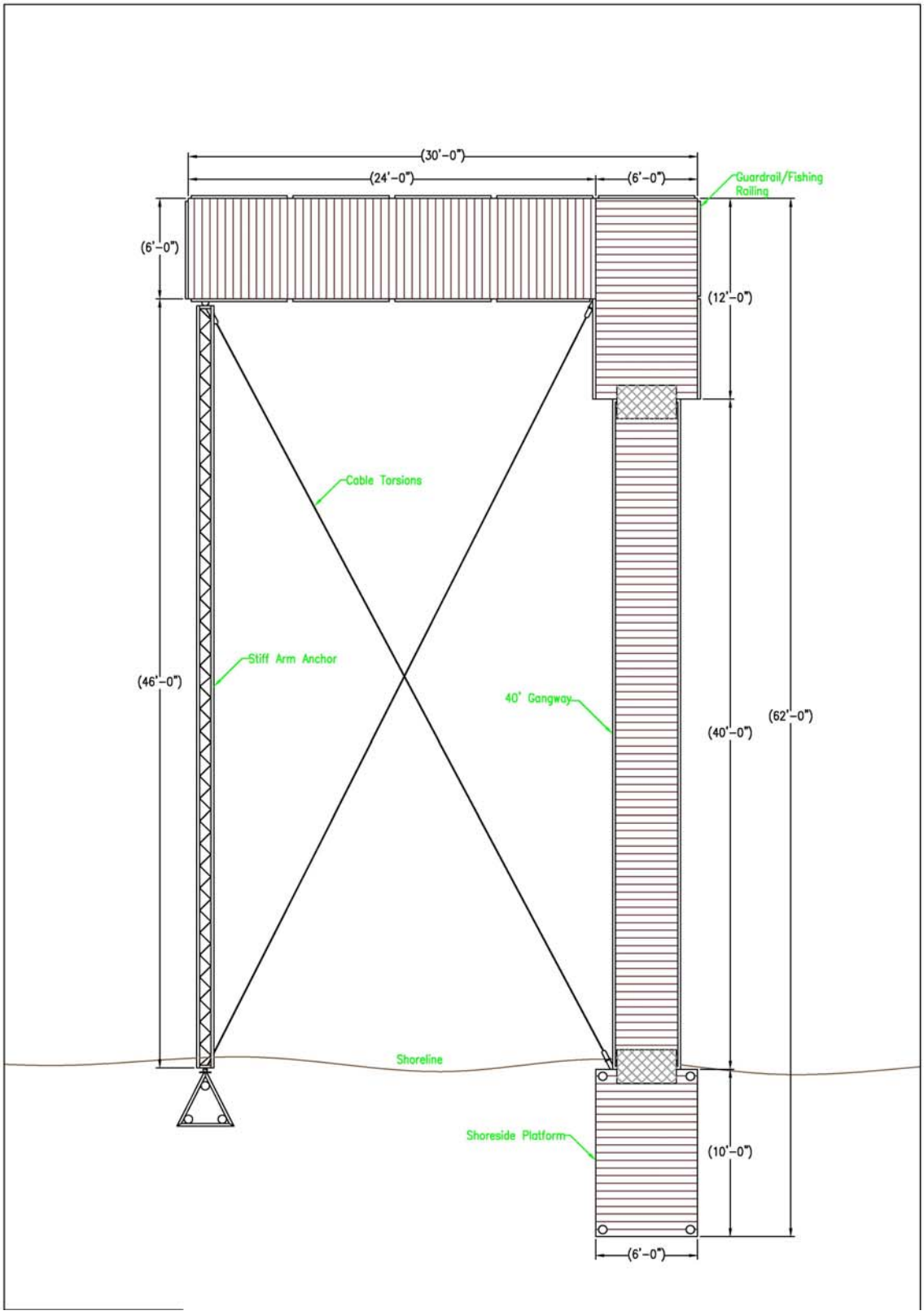


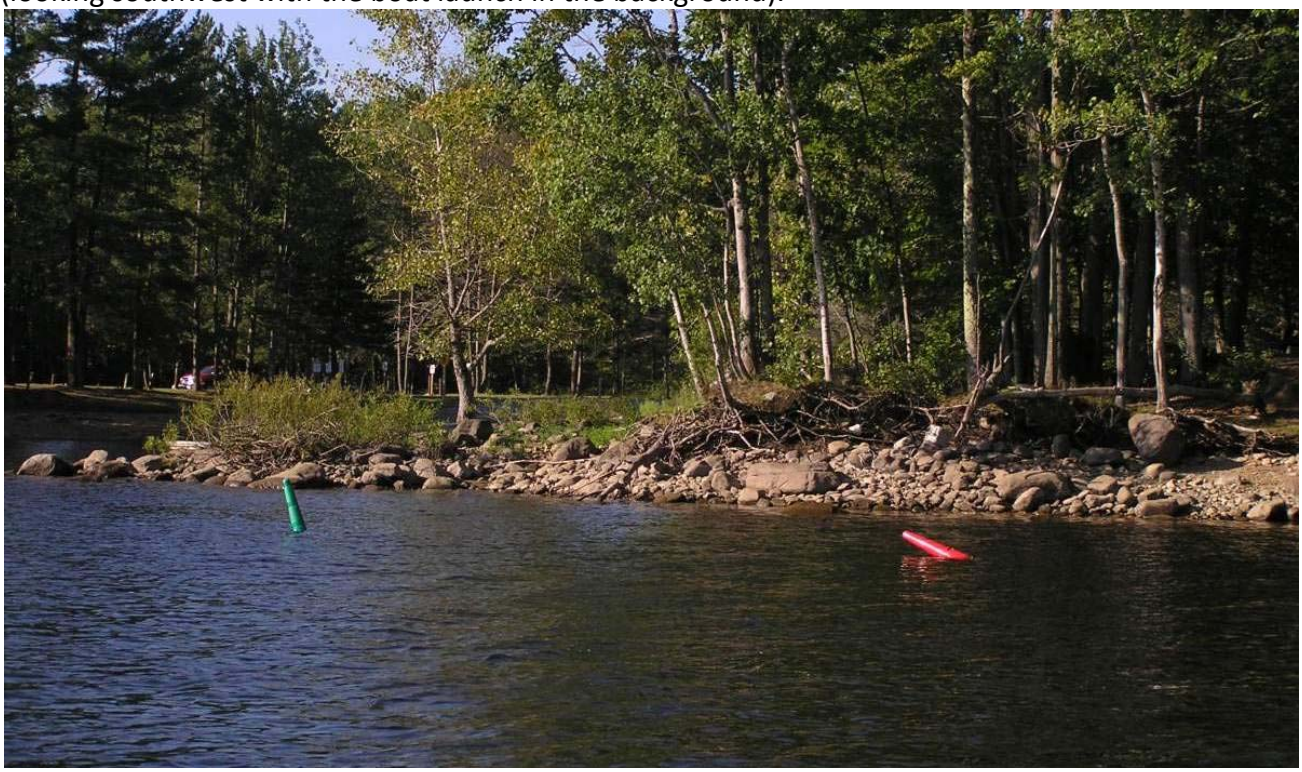
Figure 3: Photograph of an accessible fishing pier presently installed at the DEC Fish Creek Campground. Materials and general appearance (but not dimensions) are similar to what is being proposed in this amendment.

Figure 4: Location of proposed access ramp to fishing pier.

Figure 5: Area where access ramp will interface with the upland.

Figure 6: View from water of proposed location for the pier, with buoys and schematic for perspective (looking north with Route 30 in the background).

Figure 7: View from water of proposed location for the pier, with buoys for perspective (looking southwest with the boat launch in the background).



In Figures 6 & 7, the green buoy is about 50 ft from the shore and represents the approximate distance the pier would extend onto the lake. (The pier will start upland, and therefore would not extend fully out to the buoy.) The red buoy is about 30 ft north of the green buoy, representing the length of the platform.