

**Fish and Wildlife Department**

Barre District Natural Resources Office  
5 Perry Street, Suite 40  
Barre, VT 05641  
[www.vtfishandwildlife.com](http://www.vtfishandwildlife.com)

[phone] 802-479-4405  
[fax] 802-476-0129

*Agency of Natural Resources*

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Sarah London

**From:** Jane Lazorchak

**Date:** February 21, 2014

**RE:** Governor's Approval recommended and requested for the acceptance of a donation of a parcel located in the Town of Craftsbury.

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Enclosed is a request for Governor Shumlin's approval and signature for the acceptance of a parcel of land totaling 0.03 acres from Steven and Jane Glass of Williston, VT to the State of Vermont. The addition of this parcel, located in the Town of Craftsbury, to the Fish and Wildlife Department's (FWD) Fishing Access Area program will permanently guarantee public access to Great Hosmer Pond for fishing, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing and watercraft launching. Total costs for this project are approximately \$7,000 which include surveying, attorney fees and closing costs.

Funding for the associated costs of this donation will come from the FWD's Access Area Funds. Included with the Governor's approval memo are a map of the property, a copy of the review and approval by the Agency Land Acquisition Review Committee and a copy of a letter signed by the Craftsbury Select Board stating town support for the state acquisition of this parcel.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me directly at 479-4405 or at [jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us](mailto:jane.lazorchak@state.vt.us), thank you.

cc: Patrick Berry, Commissioner  
Eric Palmer, Fisheries Division Director



Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Commissioner's Office  
103 South Main Street  
10 South  
Waterbury, VT 05671-0501  
802-241-3730

TO: Peter Shumlin, Governor

THROUGH: Deb Markowitz, Secretary, Agency of Natural Resources

FROM: Patrick Berry, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife

SUBJECT: Fish and Wildlife Department, Donation, Steven and Jane Glass  
Great Hosmer property, Craftsbury, VT

**Recommendation Approval of the acceptance of a 0.03-acre donation from Steven and Jane Glass of Williston, VT to the Fish and Wildlife Department (FWD) to guarantee public access at 138-acre Great Hosmer Pond located in Craftsbury and Albany.**

Description of Project

The Fisheries Division is responsible for management of Riparian Lands, unimproved access points and developed Access Areas along waters throughout Vermont. For well over half a century the Department has managed a program that acquires fee interest in lake, pond and riverfront lands to provide public access to the waters of the State. The Department has been successful through these acquisitions in guaranteeing public boating access to nearly all major lakes, as well as to most of Vermont's smaller lakes and ponds. There are exceptions where public access is poor or inconvenient due to the character of the land the Department owns, is tenuous because access points are in the hands of other public or private entities, or is simply non-existent. The Fisheries Division finds it in the public's interest to seek opportunities for targeted acquisition of additional shorefront lands to establish access where it is lacking, strengthen public access rights where they are weak, and improve access conditions where they are sub-optimal.

Great Hosmer Pond is a large natural pond (138 acres) augmented in size by a dam owned by the State of Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Despite the DEC's ownership of the dam, there is no State or other public ownership on the pond that guarantees public access, and in fact the State's right-of-way to the dam (reconstructed at public expense in 2012) is for dam operation, maintenance and repair only, and does not permit general public access. There is a small (0.03-acre) site privately owned by Steven and Jane Glass of Williston, VT on the east shore of the pond that has been serving the public as a minimally improved boating access. The Glass family has a strong commitment to public access to the pond, but fears that if they were to sell their Great Hosmer camp, the guarantee of future public access would be uncertain. The

family is offering to convey the parcel in fee as a gift to the FWD to include it in its Access Area program, to assure that the site can serve the public as fishing, boating and other access in the future. The family wishes to have the Access Area named after Steve Glass' uncle, Gordon Wing, an enthusiastic angler and hunter who owned the Glass' Great Hosmer site for many decades before transferring it to Steve.

The Town of Craftsbury Select Board voted on November 5 to support the Department's acquisition of the site and its operation as an Access Area in the Department's Access Area program.

#### Need and Cost

The FWD is acquiring a 0.03-acre parcel from Steven and Jane Glass to provide a permanent guarantee of public access for fishing, watercraft launching, hunting, trapping, wildlife viewing and other wildlife dependent activities. The estimate for the total project costs is \$7,000 which will cover the costs associated with the donation of this parcel. This acquisition will be funded by the FWD's Access Area Funds.

Your approval of this acquisition is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144, which states in part "the secretary, with approval of the governor, may exchange, sell or lease lands under the secretary's jurisdiction when, in his or her judgment, it is advantageous to the state to do so ..." This project has already been reviewed and approved by the Agency's Land Acquisition Review Committee in January 2014 and by the ANR Secretary shortly thereafter (See Exhibit 3). In addition, Department staff met with the Town of Craftsbury to secure its approval. As documented in Exhibit 4, the Town of Craftsbury supports the state's ownership of this property.

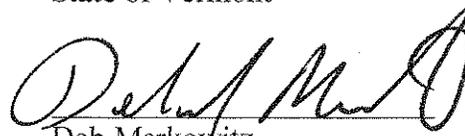
**APPROVAL FOR PURCHASE OF LAND**

We the undersigned, hereby approve the acceptance of a donation of a 0.03-acre parcel of from Steven and Jane Glass to the Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Fish and Wildlife to guarantee public access to Great Hosmer Pond. This approval is required by 10 V.S.A. §4144 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated.

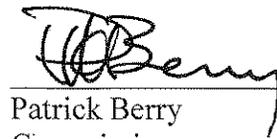
3/10/14  
Date

  
Peter Shumlin  
Governor  
State of Vermont

2/27/14  
Date

  
Deb Markowitz  
Secretary  
Agency of Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
Patrick Berry  
Commissioner  
Fish and Wildlife Department

**Glass Donation  
Great Hosmer Pond, Craftsbury**

★ Proposed Glass Donation

