

# TOWN OF DOUGLAS

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July 9, 2013

Mr. Jack Murphy, Commissioner  
Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)  
251 Causeway Street, Suite 600  
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Commissioner Murphy:

On behalf of the Town of Douglas, please accept my heartfelt congratulations on being appointed Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR). I am certain that such a post has its rewards and challenges. I am equally confident that DCR will meet them under your leadership.

Due in part to the leadership of your predecessor, former Commissioner Edward Lambert, the Town of Douglas, DCR, other agencies, as well as our elected representatives, we began working closely with each other to reduce the burden the state park places on our town – namely, our neighborhoods and our limited public safety operations. In doing so, we collectively worked to improve the users' safety and overall experience while at the state facility.

I am convinced that such positive and productive partnerships can and will continue. We do, however, have a pressing need that cannot wait until our Fall 2013 meeting when we recap the summer season together.

It has become clearly evident that, despite the Town's willingness to go along with the existing park closure policy, park closures remain the crux of the problem (please see attached statement from the Douglas Police Department).

Simply and clearly stated, the current policy has fallen far short of relieving the burden on the Town or its townspeople. We are into our third year of work on this matter.

During our meetings with Commissioner Lambert, the Town made it clear that, if established policies did not correct identified problems, we would meet and come up with a new or different solution.

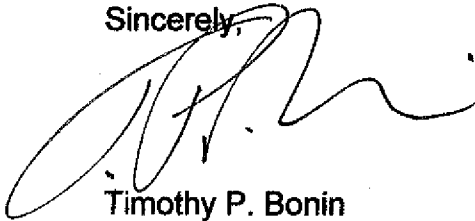
With this in mind, and a few weeks deep into this summer season, the Town and its leaders believe that DCR must establish a new, singular park closure policy.

We have taken the liberty of scheduling a meeting with our state delegation – Sen. Richard Moore and Rep. Ryan Fattman – to discuss the impact on our neighborhoods and public safety operations. The meeting will be held on Monday, July 15, 2013 at Douglas Town Hall and will begin promptly at 11:30 a.m.

It is our hope that you, or your designee, would be able to attend as well. I recognize the late notice of this meeting, but the situation must be addressed and corrected this year. There is no point in waiting until the 2014 summer season. Please let me know if your department will be represented at this important meeting.

Once again, congratulations on your new position. I look forward to developing our own relationship by working together to address this very important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy P. Bonin', written over a horizontal line.

Timothy P. Bonin  
Chairman

CC: Sen. Richard Moore  
Rep. Ryan Fattman  
Ms. Priscilla Geigis (DCR),  
Chief Patrick Foley



# Douglas Police Department

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Patrick T. Foley  
Chief of Police

## Wallum Lake State Park 2013 Seasonal Concerns

### DCR Closure Policy and Traffic Congestion.

Beginning in 2011 this was one of our agencies greatest concerns. Over the course of the following two years we have discussed many options of how to resolve this issue. Since that time regardless of the procedures that were implemented, our agency and community are still being overwhelmed and burdened by this issue.

In our attempts to resolve this problem numerous measures have been put in place to help alleviate some of the congestion and redirect traffic. Over the last two years our agency has not seen any reduction in traffic congestion through the implementation of electronic message boards and no parking signs. Visitors of the park disregard any of the parking signs and appear to pay little to no attention to the message boards.

Once visitors arrive at the park on a date that there is a closer, the vast majority of persons do not leave Douglas which prompts our agency to become inundated with parking overflow, congestion, traffic hazards, trespassing and a multitude of other issues. Visitors will stay in the area for hours waiting for the park to re-open and in many cases are turned around again because the park closes shortly after reopening.

It is becoming vastly apparent that despite all the measures put in place that the problem is only becoming increasingly worse.

*The Douglas Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer*