



TOWN OF DOUGLAS

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July 9, 2014

Mr. Jack Murray, Commissioner

Department of Conservation and Recreation
251 Causeway Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114-2104

RE: Wallum Lake State Park

Dear Commissioner Murray,

I am writing on behalf of the entire Board of Selectmen to convey our deep concerns regarding the re-opening policy of Wallum Lake State Park, as well as several incidents that have occurred at the park over the last month.

We had a major incident several weeks ago involving a large group of drunken and disorderly park patrons engaged in a violent altercation (who were celebrating an individual's release from prison) that required mutual aid from several police agencies, with 17 officers ultimately responding to the scene. A Douglas paramedic was injured in the violence that ensued.

This past weekend we encountered major problems at the entrance to the State Park caused by motorists parked on the side of the road in the "No Parking" areas waiting for the 4:00pm park re-opening. Several of the drivers refused to leave and aggressively confronted the officers, requiring additional police personnel to address the situation. During much of this time, area residents were unable to get in or out of their homes because of cars parked in front of their driveways.

We strongly believe that these issues, if allowed to continue, will seriously endanger the safety of area residents to the point where we will be forced to close Wallum Lake Road whenever Wallum Lake State Park reaches capacity.

On behalf of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Douglas I am formally requesting that you change the current policy at Wallum Lake State Park that allows for a 4:00pm re-opening of the park after it reaches capacity. We are requesting that when the park reaches capacity that it be closed for the remainder of the day.

I am also requesting that you meet with us as well as Senator Moore and Representative Fattman at our next Board of Selectmen's meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 7:30pm.

We appreciate all the work that has been accomplished over the past couple of years in attempting to resolve problems at the park. However, a serious problem still exists and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance in this very important matter.

We look forward to meeting with you so that we may fully resolve these ongoing public safety issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael D. Hughes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Michael D. Hughes
Chairman

Cc: Senator Richard Moore

Representative Ryan Fattman

Chief Patrick Foley

Chief Kent Vinson