

STATUS OF DNR's EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC ACCESS ON GOOSE CREEK

8/6/13

1. The Board talked to Doug Pierson on July 7th during a special meeting and offered to purchase the two parcels which the DNR is considering purchasing. Mr. Pierson stated he will not consider any other offers to purchase the parcels until the DNR states it is not going to purchase them.
2. Another 167 letters were mailed to Paul Yauk and the Directors of the DNR and DEQ for a total of 647. It is important for everyone to submit a letter to impress the Directors on the number of people against having a public access site on our lake.
3. State Representative Mike Shirkey :
 - Mike met with Paul Yauk and a manager from the DEQ. In that meeting Paul Yauk stated that developing a public access site on Goose Creek is a **long shot** because the DNR needs a partner to maintain the property. Possible partners are the Township, County or a non-profit organization. The Township is on record as stating “**At this stage** of the project, it is not something that would be appropriate for the Board of Trustees to support”. The phrasing of that statement gives the Township Trustees an out to change their mind so it is important for members to keep the pressure on the Trustees to not support or partner with the DNR on this project. The Board will send a letter to each of the Township Trustees asking them to hold firm on not partnering with the DNR and we will emphasize that the LCPOA members represent approximately 35% of the Township voters.
 - DEQ vs DNR - Mike questioned the DEQ manager regarding the rejection of our proposed use of the Pierson property in the dredging of the channel north of the property because it would be disruptive to the wetlands but the DNR may be able to disrupt the wetlands to a far greater extent by creating a public access site. The DEQ manager explained that it was possible to approve such a disruption to the wetlands if it was for the common good of the public. It can not be assumed that the DEQ would grant approval using that justification, **but it is possible**.
 - Mike intends to meet with the Directors of the DNR and DEQ the second week of August. He will strongly represent our objections to establishing a public access site and will challenge the inconsistency of who can do what to the wetlands.

8/01/13

1. Over the last 3 days 647 letters from members have been mailed to Paul Yauk and the Directors of the DNR and DEQ. Encourage all your neighbors to submit their signed letters to the office.
2. Mike Shirkey met with Paul Yauk and his counterpart in the DEQ on Tuesday. He will be meeting with Bob Callison, LCPOA Board President, in the next couple days to discuss that meeting as well as his discussion with Doug Pierson. Mike has some ideas he wants to discuss with Bob.

3. Attorney Cliff Bloom, an expert on water law and riparian rights, has been asked to write an opinion on the privacy of Lake Columbia and the ability of non-members to access the lake from Goose Creek and the Pierson property.
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