



MASSWILDLIFE

DIVISION OF FISHERIES & WILDLIFE

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MASS.GOV/MASSWILDLIFE

February 6, 2020

Mr. Michael Botieri, Chief
Town of Plymouth Police Department
20 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

Dear Chief Botieri,

As you are likely aware, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (MassWildlife) holds a conservation restriction over the Plymouth Town Forest. This restriction was put into place to protect important natural resources and sensitive rare species habitat on the property, as well as to provide the general public with access to the lands and waters in the area for passive outdoor recreation. I suspect you have been made aware of and have had to deal with ongoing issues off Drew Road, including illegal parking, partying and fires, particularly at the north end of Great South Pond near the aqueduct that connects to Little South Pond, where there is an attractive beach area.

While the level of public access to the Town Forest remains less than what MassWildlife believes it should be (additional boating and fishing access, as well as general access to forested areas could be provided in an environmentally responsible manner), this particular location has proven problematic due to its remote nature and is resulting in negative impacts to the shoreline habitat, excessive littering and the concern for possible escaped illegal fires. I have been contacted by multiple residents on Great South Pond, as well as the Boot Pond/Great Pond Association, voicing concerns over illegal activity and impacts to natural resources on the pond. Given the concerns we have heard, in addition to the known illegal activity that has been documented at this location, I am writing to request any assistance you can provide in increasing enforcement of the posted no parking area along the edges of Drew Road in this location. Further, should the residents on Great South Pond approach the Town to request the establishment of a tow zone in this location, that request would have the support of MassWildlife.

MassWildlife intends to continue to work very closely with the Town and, in particular the Department of Marine & Environmental Affairs, to identify other suitable areas to provide additional public parking in the Town Forest to improve public access to the area where it will not negatively impact sensitive habitats. MassWildlife appreciates the Town of Plymouth's ongoing commitment to sound management of the Town Forest looks forward to continuing to work with the Town to conserve, protect and manage important natural resources. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or if you would like to meet on site to look at the area.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.E. Zimmer".

Jason E. Zimmer

Southeast District Supervisor
(508) 759-3406

Cc: David Gould – Director, Plymouth Marine & Environmental Affairs, Liz Newlands – MassWildlife, Aaron Best - MassWildlife

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