DATE, 2017

Mr. Ron Hunt
Parks Manager - Southern Region
Department of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry
Bureau of Parks & Lands
22 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

DRAFT – Letter to State Parks and Public lands

Dear Mr. Hunt,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with the Town of Cape Elizabeth's understanding of its relationship with the State of Maine relative to Crescent Beach State Park and Kettle Cove State Park and to suggest recommendations that were discussed with Gary Best, Assistant Regional Parks Manager, and Kurt Shoener, the Manager of Crescent Beach, Two Lights, and Kettle Cove parks at a meeting of Cape Elizabeth Harbors Committee on July 13, 2017.

For many years, visitors have enjoyed access to these unique shoreline resources. The Town of Cape Elizabeth has been delighted to work harmoniously with the Department of State Parks and Public Lands to ensure that our mutual cooperation results in a wonderful experience for the public.

The Town of Cape Elizabeth has previously been granted an easement by the State for a landing located at easterly end of Crescent Beach for residential landing watercraft. The Town would be interested in a similar easement at the Boat Cove area of Kettle Cove State Park for launching commercial and emergency boats. To date, there has been no easement found for the fishermen or the Town to use Boat Cove.

Following are some recommendations for improvements that the Town would like to undertake in the future with the State. The Town recognizes that State budget constraints preclude funding these proposals at this time. The Town will pursue its own funding to support these important improvements.

1. Crescent Beach Access – The Town would like to move the current access point off of Kettle Cove Rd to a location a few hundred yards to the north in an area that was historically used for this purpose. The current access point continually erodes and has been unsafe for residential users. The current area is also adjacent to a drainage course which frequently develops a relatively deep channel across the beach which limits the practical connection of the launch area to the remainder of Crescent Beach.

   The proposed area had been used in the past for beach access and could fairly easily be rehabilitated to provide a much more efficient and safer launch area. The Town understands that an easement would need to be granted by the State

for construction, operational use, and maintenance of the relocated Crescent Beach access off Kettle Cove Road.

2. The Town proposes repurposing the existing Crescent Beach access to be pedestrian use only and controlling parking/drop offs with new signage, restricted width access gates, and moving the existing boulders closer to the edge of pavement to restrict off road parking space.

   The Town understands that the current easement may need to be reviewed to ensure that the access could be repurposed for pedestrian use and any work that may need to be accomplished.

3. The Town would like to receive an easement on behalf of the commercial fishermen and emergency vehicles to utilize the Boat Cove area of Kettle Cove.

4. The Town feels that improved signage at Boat Cove will be more effective in alerting visitors that the area use is restricted to the commercial fleet and emergency vehicles use for launch and associated turnaround purposes.

5. The Town proposes improved general signage to facilitate the proper usage of various areas associated with the divergent uses of Kettle Cove, Boat Cove, and Crescent Beach.

The Town's relationship with Parks and Public lands has been positive and Cape Elizabeth looks forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship. With this in mind, we feel a formal Memorandum of Understanding with the State be developed that delineates the Town's and the State's responsibilities relative to Crescent Beach and Kettle Cove State Parks.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and we look forward to receiving your response. We are also available to clarify or discuss any questions or comments that you may have.

Sincerely,