



## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 15, 2017

### **City Reservoir Property to be Closed to Unauthorized Persons**

Rutland, VT – Starting July first the Department of Public Works will begin issuing warnings and citing individuals for trespassing at the reservoir inlet on Meadow Lake Drive in Mendon, and the reservoir and water treatment plant on Post Road in Rutland Town.

Jeff Wennberg, Commissioner of Public Works, explained, “Over 20,000 City and Town residents, plus thousands of workers and visitors, rely upon the safety of our drinking water. Unfortunately the property where our reservoir, treatment plant and associated infrastructure is located has become a popular place for people to walk, or walk their dogs. The Department cannot ensure the safety of the water supply without restricting unauthorized access to the property.”

A growing concern is the number of unleashed dogs that are being brought onto the property. Dog excrement, which poses a health risk, is regularly found on the property by treatment plant employees. Security cameras have also recorded a trespasser escorting dogs to the reservoir intake on Mendon Brook to bathe in the source water.

“Thanks to our filtration and disinfection systems these activities have not compromised the safety of our water, which continues to pass daily testing with flying colors,” Wennberg said. “But this behavior must be stopped to eliminate the obvious risk.”

The Department has already installed a number of security cameras and lights, and is in the process of installing additional fencing and signage to advise individuals that entering the grounds without authorization will subject them to citation for trespass.

“We are getting great cooperation from the Rutland Town Police Department and want to let everyone know about the policy change so that the folks who frequent the property are made aware before receiving warnings or citations.”

The Treatment Plant will still be open by appointment for guided tours.

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