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Subject: Atkinson Public Canoe Launch

Paul

When I finished wandering around the Stickney Land I stopped by the "Atkinson Public Canoe Launch" (APCL) to check on things and how the dock was doing. The dock looked great, repairs were done in fine order. The dock was high and dry as a result of the lowering the water level during the winter. I did notice that there were **no signs** stating this was the APCL and gravel cover the parking stop blocks (in gray color) that stated this. The only sign around was a Do Not Dump sign in the parking area. I did later find the APCL signs un-screwed (lag screws) at the base of the tree where they had been mounted. The parking area, good for 4 or 5 vehicles, had a **nice gravel layer** covering the dirt that was not there when I last used the launch. Just as I was about to leave the neighbor directly across from the parking space waved to say hello...thought this was a great opportunity to introduce myself as part of the ACC since I was wearing my orange ACC hat. In the next 20 minutes I got the full run down as to what has been happening at the launch site and parking, in part do to, I think, the ACC hat. This maybe old news to all, but new to me. Apparently, **their next door neighbor does not appreciate the infringement of the APCL in the area where in the past his friends could park their vehicles. He has been accused of "disrupting" the area, moving parking blocks, etc. Bottom line, not too well liked in the area.** The neighbor felt that positively identifying the parking area would help by simply re-painting the parking bumpers Yellow, identify them in white with "Atkinson Public Canoe Launch" and stake anchoring the bumpers so they could not be easily moved would be a major improvement. Apparently, the launch site is pretty busy on week-ends and once the parking spaces are full, folks are turned away.

Anyways, **the folks I talked to were "positive"** with the APCL and had no problems with it being there and appreciated what the ACC was doing for the community. I mentioned to them that a local scout was planning an **Eagle Scout project regarding the site and they were encouraged by that.** Now this begs the question: Should the painting of the parking blocks be a part of this Eagle Scout project, or something the ACC should consider later? Something we can discuss in detail.

Just a few thoughts...

Dennis