

Town of Moultonborough

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Conservation Commission Milfoil Committee Minutes

Nov 2nd, 2009

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Secretary Joanne Farnham, Steven Maguire, Barbara Rando, Paul Daisy, Nancy Wright, Jim Leiterman, Karin Nelson, Bob Boyan, Bob Clark, Herb Farnham

Members Excused: Susan Connolly

Other Contributors: Bob Geoffredo, Christina Ashjian, Tim Tinel, Paul Stinson, Sack Botto

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of the meeting on Oct. 19th, 2009 were approved

New Business:

Chair Peter Jensen spoke about the large turnout that attended the Board of Selectmen on October 29, 2009. It helped having such a group there for us addressing the Board. He thinks we'll get support from the Board as long as we organize a proper petition warrant article.

The Committee held a lengthy discussion about what could be done to educate residents about the milfoil problem;

- Word of mouth,
- Flyers,
- Letters to the Editor,
- Putting information on Conservation Commission web page,
- Message that should accompany request to sign petition,
- Public Hearings with Press attending,
- Efforts of Associations to communicate and ask voting members for support at town meeting,
- Communications should go to all residents asking those that are registered voters to do so,
- Messages must stress the direct link between the importance of a desirable water resource to the town's ability to raise revenue,
- Funding for advertisements,
- Requesting the Schools for help with their web site and information in Paw Prints,

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- Requesting permission to put school approved message into flyers for students to take home to parents,
- Pursuing involvement with other towns around the area that are also working towards similar ends.

Peter reviewed slides, from DES' Amy Smagula's August presentation to the Conservation Commission, that summarize the DES recommendation for launching and operating a milfoil control program as well as their cost estimate for the first year to cover the 201 acres mapped so far. A discussion ensued regarding whether or not it would be necessary to have harvesters in operation during the same year of an initial chemical treatment. Karin will get clarification from Amy Smagula on her assessment and if Amy says "yes", Karin will request that Amy give an estimate of the typical percentage of the total acreage that would also need the harvester work in the same year. Amy's DES estimate did not contain any cost estimate for harvester work.

Paul stressed the importance of working closely with the state in all areas of planning control efforts.

Karin Nelson spoke with Mr. Johnathon Downing of Alton N.H., who shared some of their information. He suggested enlisting contribution to the effort from Marinas. Alton uses a weekly press release about their efforts and progress towards controlling milfoil.

Nancy Wright showed a colored Watershed Percentage, which had Moultonborough at 17.7%, Alton at 18% and Wolfeboro at 13.1%.

We discussed funding proportion possibilities in the startup years and decided that the complexity of trying to transition to full funding from the town reserve fund (that we are asking for) would likely be too complex and time-consuming to explain and still get support for the program at town meeting. So we will ask to remove the associations from the funding equation right up front – continuing to stress that milfoil is a town-wide issue and that taxpayers with the "more desirable" lake access will already be paying quite a bit more due to their proportionately higher property valuations that are driven by having the more desirable lake access.

The Committee discussed what a successful Milfoil Control Program would look like in the "out" years. It should include:

- An effective Weed Watcher Program,
- An effective Lake Host Program,

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- ❑ Funding needs handled at the Municipal level through a Milfoil Control Reserve Fund (after State, Federal and other grants),
- ❑ State and other grant requests will be managed at the Municipal level with assistance from the many Lake Associations,
- ❑ We will operate from an annually reviewed and adjusted multi-year State-approved Milfoil Control Plan including an annual funding needs review,
- ❑ We will have a guide for Milfoil Reserve Fund disbursements,
- ❑ We will have removed the dense infestations with chemical treatments in the first five years and in the “out” years be addressing re-infestation primarily by removal via a harvester program,
- ❑ We will have records that enable easy reporting on the trends and results of the program,
- ❑ We will have become a source of expertise for assisting other areas working to control their milfoil,
- ❑ We will annually review and maintain list of lake association contacts in the Lakes Region
- ❑ We will have an annually reviewed map showing lake areas by association responsibility, current infestations discovered, and other lake protection activities of import.

Karin Nelson will continue compiling an Association List. The list will be used to coordinate efforts for Weed Watcher groups; to coordinate DES mapping efforts by association; to coordinate education of association members, to have a list of association contacts might actively participate at their local association level in all the varied aspects of a milfoil control program.

Karin has cost information for harvesters which is typically provided as a per hour charge because it is too difficult to estimate the duration needed to treat a generic acre. **Karin will find out from DES specifically if we should include funding in our budget estimate for harvester/diver work in the same budget cycle we plan for chemical treatment.**

Karin will find out if there are any limits during the year on when you can apply for and get a permit – can you apply during any of the twelve months and should the expectation for turnaround be different at different times of the year. **Karin will also find out if the mapping done by Amy for DES is acceptable for the detailed mapping,** or is there an added need for mapping in more detail in the 201 acres that she has mapped.

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Karin is trying to obtain the map of the shoreline and will e-mail one to all the Associations she has on her list, to enable them to map out areas they'll be responsible for of Milfoil.

Paul Daisy will contact other Towns (Municipal and Associations) on the lake, compile information that they have, including the results to-date of their efforts to control Milfoil. Paul also suggested we consolidate volunteer phosphorous monitoring efforts for the Watershed Association with the state's Weed Watcher efforts.

Nancy Wright will develop a proposal for setting up, and funding, a Lake Host Program for the three public boat ramps that can be modified for other launch areas (association ramps, marinas, etc.)

Steve Maguire suggested trying to get a representative from the chemical companies to give us a presentation to help us be sure we have a good understanding of their process, what we can and can't do, what we should realistically expect and plan for. **Bob Boyan will coordinate this effort as well as get an estimate for treating 200 acres;** to verify the DES estimate.

Barbara Rando suggested we write a letter to the editor for the newspapers that asks for different lake associations to contact us. **Barbara agreed to write the letter.** She will use Karin's name and number as the contact.

Barbara and Paul will determine what it takes to launch and manage a Weed Watcher Program.

Meeting Schedule for your Calendars:

November 17 th , 2009	at 6:30 PM - Library Back Room
November 23 rd , 2009	at 6:30 PM - Library Program Room
December 8 th , 2009	at 6:30 PM - Moultonborough Safety Bldg.
December 21 st , 2009	at 6:30 PM - Library Program Room

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne M. Farnham

Joanne M. Farnham, Secretary