

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., June 15th, 2011 @ 4:00 PM in the Library Program Room
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Karin Nelson, Secretary Ginny Gassman, Paul Daisy, Jim Leiterman, Nancy Wright

Members Excused: Paul Ardito

Others: Al Hoch, Susan Connolly

The meeting began at 4:00 PM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

The following changes were requested in the meeting minutes of June 1st:

- Page 4, paragraph 2: Change “wrt” to “with respect to.”
- Page 3, last paragraph: change to “9 days of DASH work and 8 days of handpulling, excluding Lee’s Pond.”

Paul Daisy moved to approve the minutes of June 1st, 2011 as amended. The motion was seconded by Karin and unanimously approved.

II. New Business:

The conservation committee agreed that we could have up to three alternate members and up to two more permanent members.

Nancy requested that we look into a process where we could send out some of the written information we will be discussing prior to our meetings.

Paul Daisy made a motion and Karin seconded to appoint Susan Connolly and Al Hoch as alternates. The motion was unanimously approved.

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III. Continued Business:

- **Lake Hosts:**

None.

- **Weed Watchers**

None.

- **Milfoil Abatement and 5-Year Plan**

There was an herbicide treatment on June 5th. There was an objector at Wentworth Shores and the town policy was invoked. Marc Bellaud of ACT checked the area around the water intake at Wentworth Shores and found no milfoil there, so he did not treat in that location. Paul expected to have seen a reduction of cost due to this.

There was less area treated this spring than was expected. It could be just a weather issue. Marc and Amy were out together to do a survey just before the herbicide treatment. It was verified that a plant has have some foliage for the herbicide treatment to work.

There were a lot of calls to the town with questions because the initial letters went out to a large population assuming a big treatment area. Closer to the treatment date, it turned out the treatment area was very limited. Peter, Paul and Carter will have a meeting on this to figure out how to improve future communications and/or processes. Paul D. expects to know in late July what areas are to be treated in September

- **Tri-Town DASH Initiative**

Karin is asking for people to provide washers and other materials to make floats if possible.

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A Clerk of Works function will be needed for DASH and handpulling jobs. Peter has an initial copy of the checklist of items that would be checked-out to the vendors and then checked-in. We need to have someone monitoring / spot-checking that milfoil is actually being pulled including root balls. We will need to check the results of the work while it is being done. The committee will have to come up with a list of standards so the person checking knows what they're looking for.

Monitoring would be for both DASH and handpulling. There would be up to 90 days of monitoring to be done. We'll also need some follow-up weed watching after the harvesting has been done. Al suggested getting some photographs or a group training session for the monitoring work.

The committee has requested a first year approach to vendors that will let us try several of them out to determine which ones are most effective for the dollar spent. We would use four vendors, none of which would exceed \$5K of work during the season. The vendors would be asked to do a report on lake bed characteristics. We would know the following year or two cycles later about the quality of work that was done based on how much milfoil returns and the quantity or volume of milfoil removed per day.

After each vendor has exceeded \$5K if we want additional handpulling done, then we'd have to go back to the Selectboard to make a case to spend additional money without the bid process. The idea is to have enough experience with the vendors to go out for bid by the next mid-winter and have a vendor(s) selected before the pulling season begins. The prices quoted by the vendors varied quite a bit for one day of 6 diver-hours.

Karin spoke with Andrea Lamoreaux (NH Lakes Assoc.) and Amy Smagula (DES) today about the schedule and they are recommending that the DASH and handpulling start in July because:

- there are DASH unit issues,
- the divers aren't ready

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- weeds not quite ready
- Amy not completely done surveying
- the volunteer schedule is not worked out

Peter suggested in the future we can schedule areas for DASH and handpulling without Amy based on the surveying of the weed watchers.

Karin and/or Al will develop the schedule.

Karin asked if vendors should do harvesting of areas that they see that are not in their designated areas. It was thought that they should do all the work they can within a general area proscribed for their work but not to stray outside of that. We do not want to evaluate a vendor's work without knowing if the work effort may be "contaminated" by another vendor's good will intent.

IV. Other

The next meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, June 29th at 4:00 PM, in the Moultonborough Library Program Room.

Members and alternates who cannot make the next meeting should let Peter know.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 PM.