

Conservation Commission  
**Milfoil Committee**

For Mon., August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 @ 6:00 PM in the Library Program Room  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Members Present:** Chairman Peter Jensen, Karin Nelson, Paul Ardito, Al Hoch, Paul Daisy

**Members Excused:** Susan Connolly, Brian Litkof, Ginny Gassman

**Others:** Bev Nelson, Bob Goffredo, Cathy Cunningham (Lake Host Mgr) , Steve Maguire

The meeting began at 6:01 PM in the Library Program Room instead of the Library's back room.

**Agenda**

I. **Approval of Minutes:**

Al moved to approve the minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The motion was seconded by Paul D. and unanimously approved.

II. **New Business:**

III. **Continued Business:**

**Five-Year Plan**

Al has been communicating with DES' Amy Smagula regarding the MMC maps created from Weed Watcher and MMC fieldwork efforts. There are differences in some areas with respect to the levels of milfoil infestation observed by Amy and by MMC monitors; particularly in the Wentworth Shores area.

Paul D. reported that Amy says we have a maximum of 130 acres that can be treated in addition to what was treated in the Spring. So our efforts to expand the small Herbicide areas with the small closely adjacent DASH and Hand-Pull areas may be a limiting constraint to what we can treat this fall. Amy expects to have the final areas identified by late this week or next. Marc Bellaud (ACT) has said that August 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date they have to send out the registered letter to shorefront abutters to the treatment area and area setback. The proposed date of herbicide treatment is September 7<sup>th</sup>. The area in Blackey's Cove that was initially scheduled for a June treatment had to be rescheduled in fall due to Bridle Shiners.

Answers to our question from a prior meeting to DES and ACT about a dead plant regenerating confirmed that if the entire plant is dead the plant will not regenerate but if the top is alive (green top) that part can regenerate. We did not yet get a response to our question about whether or not there is value in our having a DASH team clean up an area treated with herbicide to remove the dead plant material. We

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are also still waiting for a definitive answer to our question of does the effectiveness of herbicide change at different depths.

The committee discussed the Wentworth Shores area shoreline discrepancy between Weed Watcher reports of sparse infestation and DES report claiming a need for herbicide treatment the length of the area. We will have further discussions with DES on the issue.

Steve Maguire asked if raking or cutting the milfoil plant to get it out of the way made it harder to effectively control the weed in the area. The committee responded that such activity did two things detrimental to control efforts: 1) such activity removes significant fronds from the plant leaving the plant less able to absorb herbicide, and 2) causes fragmentation that actually spreads the infestation rather than controls it.

Steve also asked if we were going to treat Middle Brook this year (the canal in Balmoral). The committee explained that the DASH team sent in to pull weeds did an underwater survey and said the area should first be treated with herbicide in the fall, then in the spring, and then should be treated with Hand Pull methods. The diver feedback is very recent and will be communicated to DES shortly. DES will be the final determiner of what areas receive herbicide treatment in the fall.

The committee briefly discussed the wording of the notification letters and agreed to pursue the issue at a later date since the fall treatment will only require the registered letter and the letter needing the most improvement is the first letter.

**Lake Hosts:**

Cathy Cunningham reported that we have some dissatisfaction with a few boaters at having to put up with a boat inspection. There doesn't appear to be any correlation between the Lake Host personnel and complaints so Cathy discussed the issue with NH Lakes. NH Lakes said Moultonborough is the only Lake Host team reporting this issue. Peter suggested there might be some causal relationship between the complaints and the fact that Moultonborough is the only town with "free" ramp access – he said it is often observed that when something is given away for free there is a higher incidence of complaint than if there is a cost for the thing. Paul thought that it could be influenced by the repetitive use of a ramp and those people being frustrated by having to go through the same thing every time they launch.

Cathy says there are some paid Lake Hosts interested in coming back next year and also suggested we might get more mature paid Lake Hosts if the hiring extends into the time following college students returning.

Bev Nelson suggested the committee consider shortening the shifts to attract more volunteers. Her premise is that a 3 hour shift seems nowhere near as daunting as a 4.5 hour shift. The Lake Host will survey the volunteers before the program ends

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this year to get their feedback. The committee discussed this and will consider the suggestion for the coming year.

The committee discussed the beach sticker survey. Cathy said that some of the boaters say they have stickers but they are on their other vehicles.

**Weed Watchers**

**Tri-Town DASH Initiative**

Karin distributed the clerk of the works record of DASH and Hand-Pull monitoring to-date.

We are running out of areas to use DASH treatment in but will add more soon we expect.

Brett Durham finally responded to requests to get him started hand pulling and said he was just too busy to take on the work this season.

We will ask Amy for her coordinate of the hand pull areas she has marked on her maps.

Peter will pursue reallocating our fund authorization from the Selectboard so we can distribute the Brett Durham funds to the three diving crews that have delivered Hand Pull work and continue the Hand Pull effort.

The committee discussed the issues that one of the dive teams had with our DASH units. This vendor says he can use his own equipment for less money and better results in the same timeframe than when he uses the town's DASH boats. The committee will discuss this in near future meetings to determine if it makes sense to ask the Selectboard to authorize DASH work letting the diver select whether or not they want to use their own equipment or use the town's equipment so the requirement of the vendor will be for most cost effective results regardless of whose "tools" are employed.

The Town's DASH units have been very effective in bringing the price way down plus the vendor who did the work in Back Bay loves the town's DASH units compared with his own design.

Cliff Cabrell will begin his Hand Pull efforts this coming week.

**IV. Other**

The next meeting is Wednesday August 31<sup>st</sup> in the Moultonborough Library Program Room at 4:00 PM.

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**V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chair

DRAFT