

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., Nov. 2, 2011 @ 4:00 PM in the Library Program Room
Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Karin Nelson, Secretary Ginny Gassman, Al Hoch, Paul Daisy, Paul Ardito

Members Absent: Brian Litkof

Others: Bev Nelson, Bob Goffredo, Bob Patterson

The meeting began at 4:05 PM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Al moved to accept the minutes of October 12, 2011 with the change below. The motion was seconded by Paul D. and unanimously approved by the group.

Karin requested the correction from “Amy has begun a survey of diver companies to clarify what milfoil is divable and what is pickable”, to “Amy has begun a survey of diver companies to clarify what milfoil is divable versus more appropriately treated with herbicide.”

II. New Business:

Karin moved that Bev Nelson be added as an alternate member of the Milfoil Committee. The motion was seconded by Ginny and unanimously approved.

Peter submitted a blurb about the year’s Milfoil Control efforts for the Town Tax Letter which he read to the group.

Letter writing campaign: During last year’s letter writing campaign, we tried to get out two letters a week. Paul Ardito will make a list of the different things we’ll want to cover in the letters for this year’s campaign.

III. Continued Business:

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- **Five-Year Plan**

Peter shared quotes from ACT for next year's herbicide treatments. Amy Smagula (DES) has asked that we hold off from making a decision about the vendors until the state has reviewed the bids. As with last year, the state will recommend which vendor they believe we should use for the treatments.

In the bids, there is a section that says it is the town's responsibility to identify wells that are close to the lake. This is not a new condition in the quotations. Peter is not satisfied that the past process for providing this information results in a complete list of wells. Peter will look into this.

We got notification that it is OK to take signs down from the last herbicide treatment.

Paul Daisy began writing a letter to the editor. The messages are to push to re-fund the trust, and solicit volunteers for lake hosts and weed watchers. In addition, Paul would like to start a campaign to solicit volunteers to pick up floaters and take them away from the lake.

- **Lake Hosts:**

This season, Lake Hosts collected information for the town about town stickers – which was appreciated. There is a possibility that the town will opt to collect ramp fees and may want to tie lake hosts into the collection of the fees. The committee agreed that we are opposed to having lake hosts collect ramp fees. We are also opposed to using the milfoil control trust fund money for the purposes of collecting ramp fees.

Al H. asked if the town should be responsible for checking boats for milfoil at bass tournaments. Peter indicated that the town is already responsible for educating the tournament participants re: milfoil.

- **Weed Watchers**

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No Update.

- **Tri-Town DASH Initiative**

Karin reported the following statistics that were collected on the cost per milfoil rootball for each diver vendor:

DASH:

AB Aquatics: \$.64 per rootball
Aqualogic: \$.93 per rootball

Hand pulling:

AB Aquatics \$.48 per rootball
Aqualogic \$1.25 per rootball
NE Milfoil \$1.72 per rootball

These costs are not “apples to apples” between the vendors because of the various types of sites that were covered. The divers were not assigned only to certain types of substrate which makes the biggest difference in the cost per rootball. Using the vendor reports, we may be able to get an idea on the typical costs of harvesting using the two methods in the different types of sites.

The committee discussed whether we want to put reports provided by divers on our milfoil website. Peter suggested it makes sense to compile the reports before posting. A report from AB Aquatics was reviewed by the group. Bob Patterson said that he sends a different report to Amy Smagula, DES.

Next year, the hand pulling may be administered by the IMA, although there is some upheaval at NH Lakes Assoc. which may mean that we will need to contract directly with the vendors.

Al reports that the IMA has agreed that we or vendors can modify the DASH units if they are returned in their original condition.

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Removal of “dead” milfoil in an area treated with herbicide: Al reported that the test site was not complete when last checked. Al is still waiting on the GPS coordinates for the edge of the test site. Al toured the test site with Bob Patterson and found milfoil remains - identified both by a diver and by sonar. Al had expected that all this would have been cleared by Aqualogics. The conclusion is that this test might be compromised because all of the milfoil has not been vacuumed up as planned.

IV. Other

Bob Patterson of AB Aquatics gave the committee information on his process for managing multi-year milfoil control. Some of his processes and research are proprietary.

The management process:

- Keeps track of underwater surveys
- Collect and records accurate data on a long term basis
- Generates reports
- Enables efficient and accurate mitigation of milfoil
- Consolidates information from multiple sources
- Records historical treatment info

AB aquatics put together a state of the art report on the real-time progress of milfoil control in Moultonborough. They take extensive information on the patterns of milfoil growth.

Bob suggested tools that can compile data from all sources in a map for visual representation, including densities. You can download pieces of the map to people on the shore.

Bob’s goal is to work with the legislature so that individuals could go in very shallow water to remove milfoil to take pressure off the cost the milfoil mitigation effort.

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Next Meeting:

The next meeting is Wednesday Nov 16th, at 4pm in the Moultonborough Library Program Room.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chair