

Conservation Commission  
**Milfoil Committee**

For Thursday, Sept. 13th, 2012 @ 9:00 AM in the Life Safety Building Training Room

**Meeting Minutes**

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

**Members Absent:** Sue Connolly, Brian Litkoff, Paul Ardito

**Others Present:** Bob Goffredo, Cathy Cunningham

The meeting began at 9:00 AM.

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

Al moved to approve the minutes of August 22, 2012. The motion was seconded by Karin and passed unanimously.

**II. New Business:**

None.

**III. Continued Business:**

• **Five-Year Plan**

The herbicide treatment on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> went as planned.

ACT will do the posting for the Lee's Mill's herbicide treatment on Sept ember 18th.

Paul will make sure to remind ACT to do the island posting, which Al doesn't believe was done for the last treatment.

Bev will ask weed watchers to return markers to the storage spot at Aubuchon. Also, markers on the lake should be picked up before the winter.

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Al and Peter recently met with Amy Smagula (DES). They discussed the permit process, which appears to have changed. This time, DES did not ask to treat the large general area during the process, so there were no early notifications sent to some areas where milfoil was actually found. It appears there had been some push back from the Dept of Agriculture's office regarding this type of general permit. Amy thinks it would be appropriate to use the general permit process next year. This general permit process will begin very soon.

They also discussed extending herbicide treatment into some of the Level 2 density areas where there is clay and rock that makes handpicking very time consuming and expensive, for example, Suissevale Beach. Amy seems open to this idea, however, there could still be objections from other agencies during the permitting process.

Paul reiterated that we need to work on some kind of compromise with Fish & Game. There was a question from the group about how it makes sense that, while bridle shiners are in danger of extinction, the lake is stocked with their predators (trout, salmon). The committee discussed how Fish & Game objected even to hand pulling milfoil in certain areas.

Amy wants to wait to have meetings with the division heads regarding the permitting process, but she backs the idea of writing a letter. The milfoil committee would like to voice its concerns, in order to be on record. The letter would state that we would like to have a meeting/dialog regarding the permit process. Amy would like us to include in the letter that the length of the permitting process is too long.

Amy is pushing getting a five year permitting process (already done by the state of Vermont).

Amy talked about changing the type of herbicide to help with the difficult areas. She suggested amines which is a liquid form of 24-D. Currently, we use the pelletized form. The amines would bring the

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effective dose up faster, but it also dissipates faster. In some areas she believes the pelletized version may not release the chemical fast enough to get to the plant. ACT may want to come around with the treatment twice in one day to try to make sure the dosage is complete. Amy would send out a map with the suggested areas. For permitting, she needs to include the new dosage and chemical strategy and which general area and number of acres would be treated with each formula or split treatment. The permit needs to list the types of treatment, including, pelletized 2-4/D, the amine formula, and MAX-G (triethylamine salt of triclopyr which is also under consideration).

Peter told Amy we had a real problem with the small amount of time we have to review the permit information. She acknowledged this. The differences in findings of the committee, weed watchers, the divers and DES findings could be resolved if we could review the permit before it is sent.

Amy said she does extend treatment areas to make sure edges are covered. ACT suggested a higher concentration of herbicide at greater depths.

The committee would like to look into ways of getting cheaper hand picking of sparse plants. The state had agreed last year to a pilot program where each town could be authorized to use a hookah to get the individual plants that don't warrant sending a team out to pick. The committee considered what we could do to move this idea forward.

- **Lake Hosts:**

Cathy Cunningham reported on the Lake Host program. Based on the surveys done, Cathy believes there were about 3500 inspections this year. 38.6% had Moultonborough beach permits. This number could be low because some lake hosts didn't put this on their surveys and some boaters don't have stickers on their cars.

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The season went more smoothly than last year. There were only two instances of boaters making objections to the lake host inspection.

One lake host worked a fishing tournament late in the season. He was present at 6 am and inspected 30 boats.

Staffing mid-week on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July week wasn't worth while due to low traffic.

Overall, boaters are much more aware of the milfoil problem. Lake hosts have received lots of complements on the program.

This year the paid lake hosts have worked out very well. There were 6 paid lake hosts, although one dropped out after about 3 weeks.

Two of the lake hosts would like to apply for the job next year.

Six of the volunteer lake hosts did not return from last year, and there was only one new one. Next year we will probably have to recruit. Cathy suggested having a party in the spring, asking for existing lake hosts to bring friends.

"Saves" are when milfoil is found on a boat coming out of the lake, not boats entering the lake. Most saves were from the middle portion of the summer.

The committee discussed whether all saves need to be sent for identification. Peter would like to see all milfoil found reported as saves. He uses the number of saves as an indicator of the success of the program. The philosophy should be to count all milfoil found. However, if the lake hosts are confident that they can identify milfoil, it may not be necessary for all saves to be mailed for identification. One weed watcher always had a sample of milfoil in a jar of water to show everyone. It is important to have the lake hosts trained on identifying milfoil.

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- **Weed Watchers**

Amy has been impressed with weed watcher's reports and has accepted some reports in place of her actual surveys.

Bev has sent out a notice to thank the weed watchers for their reports. Weed watchers have given feedback that they'd like to draw in and further define their routes. Although this will require more weed watchers, Bev knows of several people who have expressed interest in being a weed watcher next year.

Bev has asked people to report the number of hours they spent weed watching this summer.

- **Tri-Town DASH Initiative (MJB)**

There are approximately 15 days of hand picking left, which will be used in the Lee's Mills area after the herbicide treatment on the 18<sup>th</sup>. AB Aquatics will continue working at Lee's Pond in a week or two. They will pick up in the Red Hill River.

#### **IV. Other**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thurs., Oct 11 at 9:30 am in the Life Safety Building Training Room.

#### **V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman