

Conservation Commission  
**Milfoil Committee**

For Thursday, Oct. 11, 2012 @ 9:30 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; Paul Ardito

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

**Others Present:** Bob Goffredo

The meeting began at 9:35 AM.

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

Al moved to approve the minutes of September 13, 2012 with the changes below. The motion was seconded by Karin and passed unanimously.

*This season, Lake Hosts have been counting “saves” when milfoil is found on a boat coming out of the lake, but not when milfoil is found on boats entering the lake.*

**II. New Business:**

None.

**III. Continued Business:**

• **Five-Year Plan**

Herbicide treatments are complete. Paul Daisy has an email out to Marc Bellaud (ACT) to find out when the water test comes back and we can then post that information on the website and take down the signs. We expect the word to come back later on the Lee’s Mill test results.

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Al sent a letter asking whether the heavy rain that came the night of Sept 18 (the day of the Lee's Mill treatment) could have affected the success of the herbicide treatment.

Paul D. suggested we talk to Marc about whether it made sense to do this treatment under the circumstances. If we find the results are not what we expected we should pursue getting a credit because the forecast called for a lot of rain. The committee discussed if there should be a stipulation in the contract that the treatment should not be done after a heavy rain, or if the forecast is for a heavy rain.

In the recent invoice from ACT there was \$3-4K in extra water testing compared to last year. Peter suggested that we get a copy of the tests and information on why the costs went up. Bev suggested additional testing could have been done because of retesting due to residual herbicide in the water.

ACT inadvertently billed us twice for treatment of Lee's Pond and corrected the error after being made aware.

The hookah pilot planned (mentioned in the last minutes) failed in part due to no training being available.

Al circulated the Navigate label which states under "when to apply": "for best results, spread Navigate in the spring and early summer, during the time weeds start to grow." Amy Smagula (DES) has stated that it has shown to be just as effective in the fall.

Paul D. has received feedback from citizens that the results of the treatments seem to be "amazing." Paul A. also has received positive feedback from individuals.

Karin will provide an interesting article about herbicide to be posted on the website.

Paul D. asked Amy to let us know when the permit process begins. Paul would like the permit to cover a greater area so we can treat all

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areas where milfoil requiring herbicide is found, and also he wants to look at the proposals for using herbicide in some additional areas. The committee questioned why the permit could not be for all the waterways of Moultonborough. Al will work on a map of the areas of Level 2 milfoil that we believe would benefit from herbicide. Amy has already marked some down on her maps.

• **Lake Hosts:**

Paul Ardito reported that the total number of inspections this year was 3100. Last year the total was 2600.

Paul A. summarized some of the plans for next year:

- Recruit more volunteers - The possibility of using more volunteers and less hired people is being considered, especially since volunteers have proven to be more reliable.
- Improve training
- Schedule lake hosts for more fishing tournaments
- Consideration of covering Harilla Landing, including the private launch

Bev suggested holding Lake Host training together with weed watchers, including field trips with weed watchers.

Paul A. suggested creating a flier focused on volunteer recruitment and information to be passed out at the town meeting and perhaps to the boat dealers, etc. He also suggested having a table during the election to give info about the milfoil control effort.

Paul A. believes the grants are unfair to large towns because of how ramps are counted. He is working this issue with the NH Lakes Association.

NH Lakes requested an email from us stating that we are planning to do the Lake Host program next year. Paul A. will send the email.

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- **Weed Watchers**

Since the season is almost over, Bev will ask weed watchers to remove markers.

In Bev's survey, 493 volunteer hours were reported by the thirty-two 2012 weed watchers.

Bev would like to send two thank you letters from the committee, one to Ken Hill and Cindy Stanton for donating their boat slip and one to Joe Keegan for donating his dock and driveway. Bev will write these letters and Peter will get the names into the annual report. Bev will bring the letters in for the committee to sign.

Bev will also send an email to the weed watchers with Al's summary of the areas treated.

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

The committee discussed how individuals could contribute private money to the milfoil control effort. Since private money cannot go into our trust fund because you can't mingle the public and private money, the best plan is to contribute to the MJB and target the money for a specific area. Both Wolfeboro and Tuftonboro get a good portion of their money from donations.

Paul D. singled out Al Hoch to thank him for the amazing amount of work he's done on the program this year. The entire committee thanked Al for his work.

The MJB believes there is not enough funding to support both DASH boats, because they are not being used enough. During the primary planning it was estimated that Moultonborough would use one boat for 60 days. This year Moultonborough only used the boat 26.5 days. There were lots of areas treated where the boat was not appropriate. AB Aquatics has used four different boats in the town of

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Moultonborough for different applications. Al stated, when we hire a contractor we want him to use the most efficient tools to do the job.

Wolfeboro used the boat 21 days; Tuftonboro used the boat 1 day.

Al thinks we may want to cut down the number of DASH boats in the MJB to one. The MJB committee is considering if we need both boats and if perhaps some of these other boats are more appropriate to the job. They have asked Karin and Al to give MJB some facts about this. Then they will consider whether to change the type of boat or the number of boats.

Each town provides \$1500, then the MJB spends about \$17K a year on the boats.

There was a proposal in the MJB to raise money for the DASH boats by adding a surcharge to all diver work rather than just the current \$175 for use of the DASH boats owned by the cooperative, but this doesn't raise enough money to support the DASH equipment long term. We are using NH Lakes to avoid the liability that the town would have doing the work on its own. Also, doing the harvesting in a cooperative was good public awareness. Lastly, we were able to get vendors without going out for bid using the town process. In the future, the IMA could be a cooperative committee to share ideas etc., rather than for maintaining the boats. There's also the possibility of totally reconfiguring one of the two DASH boats so it would be useful in areas where neither large unit is currently the best tool. IMA is in a fact gathering mode, planning for the future.

The current status of DASH and hand pulling work is as follows: Balmoral canal, basin and going up the Red Hill River remain to be done this year. If there is time we will also do Evergreen Island.

Bev asked Al to provide a summary of areas worked and areas on the front burner for next year, because several weed watchers asked for this info. This info would also be useful for the annual report. Al suggested we report the number of plants harvested and the number

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of controlled acres. Al suggested the number-of-gallons statistic is not consistent in reporting between Wolfeboro and Moultonborough, which may be the wrong impression when comparing the towns. Peter wants to keep the reporting consistent with last year, using the number-of-gallons statistic in certain reports.

Karin suggested sending a QC summary to Amy.

**IV. Other**

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am in the Life Safety Building Training Room.

**V. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman