

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., Oct 02, 2013 @ 9:30 AM in the Public Safety Building Training Room

Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Secretary Ginny Gassman, Al Hoch, Scott Bartlett, Bev Nelson, Karin Nelson, Paul Daisy, Paul Ardito, Cathy Cunningham

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Bob Goffredo

The meeting began at 9:30 AM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Paul A. moved to approve the minutes of August 28th as written. The motion was seconded by Bev and passed unanimously with the change noted:

New growth was found near the Goodwin Islands in an area that was treated in the fall of 2011. Also, old viable plants were found in an area treated in 2012.

II. New Business:

Paul asked when we have to determine our funding request for next year. Peter doesn't want to reduce from this year's budget of \$195K. Peter said we could make the argument that there has been two years in a row where we could have done more work if we had additional money. Peter wants to leave the requested amount at \$200K until we actually see a reduction in the amount of work we need to do. Peter will make the case at the meeting and at the budget hearings.

The committee discussed if we are getting the most done for our money in our current program. Peter has heard from some real estate agents that just the fact we have this milfoil program is considered a positive for resale value.

The committee would like to do an assessment of effectiveness of the five year plan.

Paul D. would like to revisit having grant money go into the trust fund instead of the general ledger. The state was very prescriptive about how the fund was set up.

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Meeting Minutes

Bev suggested that the people making the money decision should go out on the boat to weed watch and to see how difficult it is to deal with the milfoil situation. Paul suggested we could set up some kind of tour day. Peter suggested if we're not happy with what is done this year, we could do this next year, similar to a "site walk" with the planning board.

III. Continued Business:

• **Five-Year Plan**

Peter reported we are out of money per budget. The \$12K left will be used in the last week with the divers. Peter passed around a handout with spending details.

Al had compiled 30 potential days we could have done extra work, which will get moved to next year.

There will be \$20–30K left in the trust fund left from funds that were carried over.

This year it is costing us \$1100 plus a 5 % fee to NH Lakes Association per day for harvesting. Also, it's costing us about 1K plus \$75 to use our own DASH boat.

Next year the bids will be submitted directly to the state.

The September 11th herbicide treatment was on 110 acres at \$365 per acre. This is \$60 more per acre because the Renovate MAX G herbicide is more expensive. Sculpin was \$305. Navigate, used last year, was in between closer to \$305.

The September treatment appeared to work in Paul Ardito's cove. Bob G. said the treatment area in Balmoral looked pretty good. Cathy saw some dead milfoil. Paul Daisy said you can't really see the effectiveness until the spring. Just because you can see the tops of the plants are dead, doesn't mean the herbicide penetrated to the roots. Paul D. asked is the dosage correct? If it kills the top but the regrowth is substantial, the dosage may not be correct. The allowed dosage is controlled by the state Dept of Agriculture, but we may not have used the maximum amount.

Cathy reported she has seen there is a huge amount of native milfoil this year. This was confirmed by Amy Smagula, DES.

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., Oct 02, 2013 @ 9:30 AM in the Public Safety Building Training Room

Meeting Minutes

Al looked checked the shoals at Suissevale where there was treatment and it appears the chemical had no effect and the milfoil looks tall, green and like it is still growing.

Paul D. says it's important that we go back the ACT to tell them whatever was done there was not effective.

Peter said we should go back to check the areas that were treated. Paul will ask Marc and Amy to come up and check on the effectiveness themselves.

The committee discussed whether we could take down the signs yet. The answer was "no", because the test results are not back yet. The first test showed some trace results. They take tests at 10 and 20 days. We will post the OK to irrigate on the web site.

Paul D. would like to talk to Marc Bellaud, ACT, in order to review the different treatments after he's had a chance to look at the results of the September treatment. Peter agreed this has to happen before Amy goes to bid for next year. Paul will set up a meeting based on their availability. Paul asked the group to put some questions down we have for Amy and Marc before that meeting. Paul will get the dates and set the meeting.

Also Peter suggested we get Amy going on the work for next year.

There were questions about the effectiveness of Sculpin G, then areas within the rocks did not seem to get effective results from the herbicide treatment.

Peter is concerned if we don't get noticeable results we won't continue to get support from the town on the funding. We need to make sure the milfoil is going away where we are treating.

In Cathy's cove, residents are happy the milfoil is gone, but it's filling in with native weeds that still make them unhappy. There have been a lot of calls from citizens complaining about weeds that are not milfoil. What does Amy say about what residents can do about native weeds? The committee agreed we should talk this over with Amy.

Paul D. talked to Marc on the phone during the meeting and he will coordinate with Amy to set up a meeting. They want to talk to the Army Corps of Engineers about other results throughout the country. We'll decide on the meeting dates by email.

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Wed., Oct 02, 2013 @ 9:30 AM in the Public Safety Building Training Room

Meeting Minutes

- **Lake Hosts:**

Lake Hosts are working at a fishing tournament today.

Paul A. handed out the ramp statistics to the committee. This year we have staffed one person per ramp.

There will be \$3100 left in this year's budget for next year.

Peter asked for a thank you note for the lake hosts and the number of saves highlighted for the program. There were about 50 saves in Moultonborough. Moultonborough turned in about one third of the saves for the entire state. This makes a lot more sense than last year when lakes hosts didn't send every sample in. 90% of saves in Moultonborough are from boats coming out of the lake.

Statistics about each ramp could be interesting for us to understand, including what types of boaters tend to be at each place and what the likelihood is they are from out of town, etc.

Peter would like to have some data for the annual report by November.

- **Weed Watchers**

Bev got 4-5 more responses for August weed watchers. In spring she will begin to dialog again with weed watchers.

Karin will take out the markers at Lee's Pond.

Ginny will send Peter's yearly summary report to the interest list when available.

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

Harilla landing will be harvested Friday morning. This is an area where people can observe the diver doing the work. It will start at 8:30 a.m.

Al gave Peter a list of areas that still could be worked this year if we had the money.

Scott and Al did a thorough survey of Salmon Meadow Cove and found milfoil; approximately three days of handpicking would need to be done.

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Meeting Minutes

The MJB committee agreed to try to sell one DASH boat. Also, decided but not formalized, they will talk to the NH Lakes Assoc. and warn them that we're severing ties with them on the boat business, which will remove the surcharge. Amy was already getting better bids than we were getting.

IV. Other

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 11, 2013 at 2:00 pm in the Town Hall Meeting Room.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman