

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee

For Thursday, April 22, 2013 @ 9:30 AM in the Life Safety Building Training Room

Meeting Minutes

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

Members Absent: Sue Connolly, Brian Litkoff, Paul Daisy

Others Present: Bob Goffredo, Bob Patterson (AB Aquatics)

The meeting began at 9:35 AM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Al moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2013 as written. The motion was seconded by Paul A. and passed unanimously.

II. New Business:

Al Hoch is now an employee of AB Aquatics as operations manager. He will still be on the committee but will no longer do quality assurance because it will be a conflict of interest. Al will be resigning from the tri-town committee since this will involve more conflicts. Peter asked who could pick up being on the tri-town committee. He'd like to get that settled by the next meeting.

Peter will contact our alternates to see if they're still interested in the committee. Other committee members will contact a few people to recruit as new members

Bob Patterson of AB Aquatics talked to the committee about preparing for the season. Al Hoch recused himself for this portion of the meeting. AB aquatics has two new divers, one is a biologist and has experience with milfoil pulling.

Bob suggested that we approve funding for AB Aquatics to do surveying with divers. They would like to identify areas where milfoil starts growing early because they are worried about fragmentation. Last year the early survey focused on bottom composition to figure out which equipment should be used. They won't need to redo those areas. This year surveying needs to be done outside the points done last year.

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They would want to do the bulk of the surveying before the pulling begins for the season. Then if they find additional areas that would need to be surveyed they may come back to the committee during the season.

Bob felt that a lot more attention needs to be given to all of Moultonborough which is likely the biggest milfoil project in the state.

Bob said five days of surveying would be beneficial if we were going to be doing one hundred days of dash work. Bob would like the individuals on the committee to participate in the surveys.

Last year the survey rate was \$750 per day. Bob offered to donate his own time because it helps AB aquatics as well as the project. On two of the days they would visit existing points from DES which would not take as many people, so Bob is offering five days surveying at \$500 a day. This compares with regular DASH work costs of between \$750-790.

There was a discussion of the value of the surveys, and whether we have the money to do both the surveying and to do all the pulling in areas that we have already identified and that will be identified.

Karin asked AB Aquatics to provide examples of how surveying would save the milfoil committee money. One example was that flashing light 72 was hand pulled and then subsequently treated with herbicide after it was found to be very dense with milfoil. This cost an extra \$600. Another example of how surveying could have benefited the project was Blackey's Cove which was found to be a much more substantial job than thought and might have been prioritized differently if it had been known in advance.

Peter asked for a map of the areas which have already been surveyed and if it would be likely that we'd have to survey in these areas in the future.

Peter stated that we will be able to do less actual milfoil harvesting already within our budget because prices have gone up.

AB Aquatics would start harvesting the week of May 12 and will be full up the week of May 19.

Karin moved to spend the same amount of money on surveying as we did last year and revisit other survey needs at later meetings. Ginny seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

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Peter asked AB Aquatics to produce a description on the benefits of surveying and where and how often areas might need to be resurveyed.

Bev talked about the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, and she said she'd be very interested in getting a town youth group together to work with lakefront land owners to improve their shore land for lake management. Some of this requires hard physical labor, so the program needs to recruit bodies. Sources could include boy scouts and the National Honor Society.

III. Continued Business:

- **Five-Year Plan**

There has been update from Amy on the permit process and the Sculpin G notice for after treatment. The question was can we release people to use the water 21 days after treatment, or if the use of the water will depend on testing as discussed in previous meetings.

Mailings: Ginny will track cost savings from having volunteers work on abutters mailings via spreadsheet.

- **Lake Hosts:**

Local lake hosts training is scheduled for May 18th for volunteers and paid lake hosts. Official training will be held on May 11th in Concord for new volunteers and new paid lake hosts.

The ad that was run has given us five applicants. Three have been interviewed. Paul thinks we only need to hire two total. Cathy put the schedule together for the season. We got approval on our grant of \$2750 for lake hosts.

Al suggested we develop a lake host program within the lake associations for the private launches. Bob G. said there is a paid person at Balmoral that does security at the launch. Paul and Bob G. discussed attending the next meeting of the Balmoral association to discuss having this person take on lake host type education there.

Paul Ardito will call Bob Boyan of Suisseville again to discuss getting in on their next meeting to discuss a similar program there.

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Karin said if it is a private launch, all they need is to be educated once. But there would also be renters that need to be educated.

Bob G. will try to get the people who live on the canal to attend the lake host training.

Ginny suggested we would be able to provide a blurb about milfoil to include in renter packets.

Lee's Mill's is putting in a new dock berth for the island owners and another dock berth for the DASH boat.

Bruce Woodruff, town planner, has committed to get the milfoil maps added to the town GIS web page, with the herbicide treatments color coded in layers. It would be great if we could also get the info for where we have pulled in the system.

- **Weed Watchers**

The weed watchers training meeting will be on June 2nd at 9 am. Weed watchers will have the opportunity to do hands-on training at Lee's Pond after the meeting.

Jordan Proutty will come to the training and will hopefully start up weed watching on Lake Kanasatka. Peter says Jane Fairchild may also be interested in the weed watching effort on Lake Kanasatka.

A newspaper article is planned for the middle of May. Bev will forward to Ginny to forward to the committee.

Paul A. will talk to the Aubuchon manager about where to put the reports and milfoil markers this year.

Al suggested leaving the volunteer fliers at a variety of stores this summer, such as Murphy's, Trexler's, Tedeschi, etc.

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

There was an amendment to the tri-town agreement to allow renting a DASH boat to a third party. The boat would be leased for \$5k with the option to continue.

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The tri-town committee wants to have a meeting with Amy to discuss the various grants such as the one Tuftonboro got. When vendor's bids come into directly to DES for Tuftonboro and other towns, there has been a lower price than the tri-town contract price.

Next year when the three year agreement is over, the committee can explore getting a different administrative body than NH Lakes.

IV. Other

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed, May 8th, 2013 at 9:30 am in the Life Safety Building Training Room.

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Peter Jensen
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman