

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wed., June 25, 2014 @ 8:30 AM @ the PSB Training Room

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

Members Absent: Cathy Cunningham, Dave Joyce

Others Present: Bob Goffredo

The meeting began at 8:30 AM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Al moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2014 as written. The motion was seconded by Bev and passed unanimously.

II. New Business

- **June 19th Treatment**

Al has been out checking the effectiveness of the treatment. Al was out this morning and has seen no change, although Marc said it would be a couple of weeks before we see anything.

- **QC data details**

Karin reported we've done one week of QC. There have been two dive teams going out and there may be two teams off of one boat in future weeks. We have doubled the QC work, so the question was is this something the MMC wants in order to have details about each location? The committee agreed that this addition QC info would be of interest.

Paul Daisy asked if the amount of hours spent in a given area would be of interest. Al said this is tracked, along with the harvested amounts. The team is interested in tracking the amount of money and efforts spent in each area.

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- **Using Barriers**

Al read a report from one of the ABA workers about the difficulty of harvesting among boulders in deep water with wake from the boats. The amount of effort per site varies greatly per site. Al suggested if we used barriers as a curtain around certain locations to shield from currents, we could use the chemical in some of these locations. Al knows of a lot of shoals where they could be used. Al thinks we would end up buying our own barriers because Marc Bellaud (ACT) doesn't have any that are long enough. Karin asked if we could test this method before we buy the barriers.

Paul D. suggested that we should prioritize handpicking in the easier areas before addressing the difficult areas.

Karin asked if it would make sense to use Diquat to get these areas weakened and eliminate the danger of fragmentation. Al thought this would not work because the plants could grow back as much as an inch a day. We could try this in a spot as an experiment.

Paul asked if it is really effective to harvest in these areas, because we're never going to clear out the entire lake. Al said if we don't get the spots where it is coming from, we are not going to make progress. Karin asked if they are getting all the roots/milfoil when they are harvesting here.

Karin's experience with floaters is that they are a problem, but they don't take hold as fast as you might think.

Paul will ask Amy if trimming the tops is a good idea, as well as if the plants spread by root.

Karin wants to try compare the cost of doing a chemical treatment with a barrier in an area that's difficult with the cost of having divers hand pull in that area. She would like to see per acre costs for level 3 and 4.

Scott suggested we could semi-circle an area to catch the chemical with the prevailing winds.

Divers would anchor the barriers with cement blocks. Can we control it down to 10 feet or would the barrier have to go to the bottom? Scott said this is worth further exploration with Amy and to do a test. We would use our volunteer divers and possibly paid divers. Al talked to Marine Police last year and they didn't have an issue with these areas being "barriered" off. Al says there are three potential areas.

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We might be able to treat these spots in July because they are in the bridle shiner area. Scott suggested we do a test in a large area where we clip some, treat some with chemical and use a barrier in another area.

Paul summed up:

- ✓ Try a barrier in a difficult area
- ✓ Try topping a plant instead of getting the entire plant out in difficult area

- **Tracking Areas**

The areas that Karin is suggesting that we keep very good records so we have the results of 100% harvesting are:

- ✓ Lees Pond – almost but not completely 100% harvested last year.
- ✓ Lees Mills Bay
- ✓ Balmoral to Whaleback Island
- ✓ Harilla Landing SE Long Island
- ✓ Salmon Meadow Cove

The committee agreed to attempt to do 100% harvesting on these five areas. If it is not possible to complete then, one or so can drop off list.

- **Contract with AB Aquatics**

Carter said the town council is reviewing the contract today and then it should be all set.

- **Budget**

There haven't been many bills as of yet. As of today, most of our budget still remains.

The June treatment estimate is \$6500 based on Marc's quote. Adding the water testing would total approximately \$8K.

The estimate for number of days of handpicking is: 110. There are 12 already completed.

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Billing from ABA is by dive team, one price with boat, one price by diver. Al reported that last year they did a very thorough job near Whaleback Island, but at the same time they watched floaters coming in and this year there is more growth.

III. Old Action Items:

A17: Scott will work with Amy to get Harilla and Balmoral ramps posted with the state milfoil warnings. **Update:** Paul A. ordered signs for Balmoral and other public ramps. Amy is waiting for them to be produced. Scott requested Paul get two more (one for Harilla and one for Crosswinds.) No update, signs have not arrived yet.

A19: Al to check to see if it is feasible to mark tracking areas. **Update:** if we earmark a few areas as a priority, we can define them as tracking areas. Karin to give Al a list of these areas. Done (see above)

A20: Committee members brought materials to make markers: Each member is to grab a bag for making them. The orange markers should be 12-13ft, and the red are (9-10 ft). **Update:** Mostly done, a few ongoing.

IV. Other Business

Weed watchers: Lee's pond survey completed by Bev and Karin reported. Lee's Pond looks good.

Volunteer divers: Three divers are willing to work on surveys not including snorkelers.

Bev reported that seven people are looking for more weed watcher training. These were matched up with committee members for training. Bev has had 10 reports out of 41 weed watchers. Bev has sent individual emails to remind people to make reports.

ARC GIS functionality has changed and there is now a different process to put GPS points on a map. More work has to be done to get up to speed with the most recent update.

The committee believes there doesn't have to be a liaison to the BOS. We plan to do an effectiveness report for the year via Scott and the conservation commission.

Ted Aldrich trains people to pull milfoil for the state. Karin has been discussing having snorkelers and others authorized to pull milfoil. Karin will discuss this further with Amy, in order to have a program in shallow water for harvesting.

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Balmoral lake hosting program: There is a parking spot now for the lake.

Lake hosts are down to 11 volunteers, this year, and four paid lake hosts. Boat traffic has not been that heavy. The paid people we have now are very good.

Paul A. will send Ginny a request for more volunteers for lake hosts to be sent out to her "interest list" distribution list.

V. New Action Items

A21: Karin will discuss this further with Amy, in order to have a program in shallow water for harvesting

A22: Paul D. will ask Amy if trimming the tops is a good idea, as well as if the plants spread by root.

A23: Paul A. will send Ginny a request for more volunteers for lake hosts to be sent out to her "interest list" distribution list.

VI. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed. Aug 6th, at 8:30 AM in the training room at the Public Safety Building.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman

Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson

Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman