

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wed., November 5th, 2014 @ 8:00 AM @ the Moultonborough Library

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

Members Absent: Cathy Cunningham, Dave Joyce, Scott Bartlett

Others Present: None

The meeting began at 8:05 AM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Al moved to approve the minutes of October 31st, 2014. The motion was seconded by Paul Daisy and passed unanimously.

II. New Business

Budget review 2014

Karin shared her financial report spreadsheet. YTD we have spent \$173,669. There could still be some small changes. We have \$71K available in the trust fund. Karin will make a note in the spreadsheet that DES funds are reimbursed to general town funds and will remove it from the trust fund ledger.

We spent less than we thought we would. We completed less handpicking than planned because of weather, and personnel issues with ABA. We had budgeted by days of harvesting. We still have places to harvest that we didn't get to for 2014.

Budget review 2015

Karin shared the letter she sent to Carter and the BOS about the projected budget for 2015. The total projected at \$210K, with breakdown as follows: harvesting \$130K, herbicide \$60K, test barriers \$10K, lake host \$7K, mailings, GIS, miscellaneous \$3K.

Removing the dead plant biomass is better than leaving it in for the future. Generally, the committee would like to go to a higher ratio of hand pulling to herbicide. This

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costs us more money per plant. We took 11,638 gallons of milfoil out of the lake via hand pulling this year.

The harvesting trend now is that the plants are in deeper water and further off shore.

The next step is to meet with Carter at the budget meeting on Friday, Dec 5th.
The annual report will go to Alison in January.

Year end committee reports

Al read the MMC Project Manager report which is attached, below:

This year has shown great progress in the prior known locations of variable milfoil. The other good news and it is good news; is that we located several previously unknown patches and fields (a patch is smaller than a field but neither are defined in size, only opinion). These previously unknown areas are likely causes of recontamination of what had been considered trouble spots. There are still other possible reasons for recontamination, prior years having gone to seed and those seeds may take 2-5 years to sprout new growth; fragments being brought in on boats or blown in by wind. These newly located areas were “off-shore”, sometimes in deeper waters. Milfoil is not always close to shore and Weed-Watchers need to check out until the depth is at least 12 feet and then make sure there is not a shoal nearby with growth.

Working closely with NHDES and local Weed-Watchers to locate the plants, divers results of this years' work: 130 days of harvesting on Lees Pond and Lake Winnepesaukee netted about 10,000 gallons of milfoil. Compare to 2013 (note, greater herbicide usage) 84.5 days, 11,026 gallons and 2012 with 149 days, 15,257 gallons. The gallons harvested are coming down as success in reducing the proliferation of the invasive plant. Instead of vast thick fields, the divers are now working in thinner smaller patches and often harvesting single or tiny groups of plants. Exception to the new fields found.

The divers covered all of Lees Pond, harvesting all marked sites along with one new site and marked a site for possible treatment next year. On Lake Winnepesaukee, they covered all known prior sites and worked on some of the new finds. Some of the new finds are; two by the fingers in Salmon Meadow Cove, one between Big Goodwin Island and Gilman Point, and an extended field between Birch Hill Island and Suissevale shore. Unfortunately, we were not able to completely finish all harvesting and some smaller patches had to left for next year. Some of this was because what was thought to be a small patch was instead a large field and took much more time than originally planned.

Next year, we expect to use herbicide to try and control some of the rocky shoal locations so the divers will not be spending time moving rocks just to be able to reach the plant roots. They will target

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those areas not completed this year and return to all the known serious locations in addition to responding to the weed-watcher reports.

The reports that I hear from people along the lake are that conditions are so much better than they had been in just a couple years ago, meaning that the committee is working in the right direction.

Al Hoch

2014 was a successful season for weed watchers. Bev read the End of Season Weed Watcher report which is below:

1. Update list by contacting all new and past weed watchers to thank them for past help and their willingness to continue this important activity.
 - a. 40 residents were weed watchers. These weed watchers reported June, July and August on their assigned area.
 - b. Reports were provided to Al Hoch, diver and dash manager so he could follow-up and schedule weed management.
2. Established a “eyes in the water” diving team to expand our efforts of weed watching
3. Provided training for all weed watchers by NH DES and additional training “on the water” training for new volunteers. The Tri-Town member volunteers were included in the training session. Approximately 25 were in attendances
4. Follow-up training of “eyes on the water” was provided for new weed watchers. This was very successful and needs to be continued next year.
5. Many weed watchers are now reporting GPS data with their reports. This has been very useful in follow-up.

Email contact with weed watchers has worked well. Four years into our work of weed watching, we have a working and successful method.

Respectfully Submitted by Bev Nelson weed watcher manager and Ginny Gassman assistant weed watcher manager.

Paul Daisy reported on the herbicide treatment activity:

The following herbicide treatments for milfoil were completed during 2013 and 2014:

2013

Final Total Cost: \$80,064
Total Acres Treated: 191.2 acres

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2014

Final Total Cost: \$48,092.50

Total Acres Treated: 101.9 acres

We continue to try and reduce the number of acres treated with herbicide relying more on hand harvesting. However, the high cost of hand harvesting dense plant growth cannot be justified. Where the density of milfoil growth warrants we will continue to use an herbicide. As an example, during routine surveying this past season some areas of dense, deeper water milfoil were recorded and it is likely a number of these will require herbicide treatment.

It was agreed to include the following QC report MMC 2014 QC report in the minutes:

AB Aquatics worked for approximately 130 days on the lakes. Our 11 QC volunteers were very diligent in counting the weeds on time and reporting results to me. In most cases, the gallons they reported were greater than what the divers themselves reported, giving me great confidence in AB Aquatics' honesty. Our QC results showed a total of 11,638 gals were collected with a total estimated number of milfoil plants of almost 78,000.
Karin Nelson

DES Application for 2015

There is a new application which Carter filled out and Amy Smagulal (DES) was OK with it.

Per the meeting with Amy and Marc Bellaud (ACT) on 10/31, Amy provided two maps. We didn't follow up on the "1-2 punch" strategy because there was not enough milfoil there after the Diquat treatment. At the meeting, we asked for more time between the DES survey and the herbicide treatment, and they agreed. Amy sent an email a few days ago re: the DASH bid requests. For herbicide, Amy provided Karin with maps depicting which areas would be included as potential treatment for permitting.

Update annual Activities (to do) list

We will make updates to the annual activities list for December to include the budgeting activities. Karin/Ginny phone call.

Test of herbicide barrier:

Area 21: AI suggested would be good for the curtain, Area 10: benthic barrier; Areas 19, 20, 14 would be control. There is a mistake on the map, area 6 was handpicked and not treated in the fall.

Surveying

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When ABA sends a dive team into an area, they want to do a quick swim around to find the milfoil boundaries before starting the hand picking. This would take less than a ½ hour. The committee approved this new procedure.

III. Old Action Items:

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

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

A24: Markers: for next time we make them, Karin will take a look at the getting the materials cheaper, likely to be done in the winter.

A26: Scott will start a list of ramps and whether there are signs at them. DONE

A28: In the spring, we need to make sure we closely check the areas G and H as a test of the 1-2 punch method (using first Diquat and then 2,4-D.) On the new map these are Area 22 and Area 24. Ongoing.

A29: Bev will work with Alison to get a notice on the MMC website for the spot to look for water restrictions. For example: June: none, July: none, September: in effect. She will add the September treatment map to the website. Ongoing (banner or website)

A30: Ginny will send out a general notice to volunteers, if you see signs to take them down (ongoing)

A31: Scott will help Karin with budget info and year end summaries. Ongoing

A32: Karin should receive a report from each subgroup, weed watchers (Bev), lake hosts (Paul A.), QC (Karin) and harvesting (Al). The timeframe is by next meeting. Reports should include the number of volunteer hours completed compared to the prior year. Last year’s annual report should be used as a basis for this year. Done

A33: Scott will ask Carter if there is any space in the December tax newsletter for our report. Ongoing.

IV. New Action Items

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A34: Update annual Activities (to do) list – Ginny/Karin

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Dec 3rd, at 8:00 AM in the Mel Borrin Room (Training Room) at the Public Safety Building.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman