

**Conservation Commission**  
**Milfoil Committee Minutes**

For Thursday, January 22nd, 2015 @ 9:00 AM @ the PSB Mel Borrin Room

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

**Members Absent:** Dave Joyce

**Others Present:** Rebecca Hanson

The meeting began at 9:05 AM.

## **Agenda**

### **I. Approval of Minutes:**

Al moved to approve the minutes of December 3rd, 2014 with the changes noted below. The motion was seconded by Scott and passed unanimously.

Page 3: Change \$210K to \$200K

Page 3: Change three-way communication to two-way communication

### **II. New Business**

- Rebecca Hanson: Squam Lakes Assoc., Director of Conservation joined us to discuss ways to get towns around the lake involved.

Rebecca explained how the Squam Lakes Association handles milfoil mitigation. It has been done via the Squam Lakes Association since 2000. They have not used herbicide since 2007. 4300 gallons were harvested this year, a record for them.

There are five towns around the lake. There is milfoil in Ashland and some in Holderness, a little in Center Harbor, and none in Sandwich or Moultonborough. They work three locations in Big Squam, and they are working downstream. The most milfoil is in the Squam River.

Rebecca said they need more weed watchers.

Also, she said they are getting less grant money from the state this year. This is true in Moultonborough, too. The state went from 40% coverage to 25% coverage and the extra money from boat registrations does not cut in until next year. There are more

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programs requesting money according to Amy Smagula (DES), so they had to spread it around.

There is an annual weed watchers/lake host class in Moultonborough. This could also be taken at SLA, if Moultonborough volunteers can't make the dates and vice versa.

There is an SLA class for diver certification that additional divers can do.

The committee discussed the strategy and tactics for working with towns to get funding.

- Budget wrap-up for 2014

Karin received another invoice from AB Aquatics, so the final fund balance is \$68, 141.12

- Budget for 2015

The DASH harvesting bid daily rate when up 37% due to OSHA requirements. This takes our daily cost from \$950 to roughly \$1300. If we don't cut down on some of the planned days of harvesting, this amounts to \$177K for 2015.

Paul D. was questioning the cost increases. According to AI, the topside people do not need to be dive certified because we are dealing in shallow water.

A: Scott suggested we ask Bob P. (AB Aquatics) to come in to discuss and justify the new daily rate. AI will set this up.

Karin, by email, has accepted the bids that were made, but she hasn't signed anything yet (which Carter will do.)

The herbicide portion of the budget is also higher due to the proposed application methods for the year. Last year the amount of herbicide was 111 lbs per acre, the proposal for this year is 142 lbs per acre. This is likely the reason for most of the cost increase. Last year the cost average was \$350 per acre. This year the bid came in at \$450 per acre. Also, the cost of herbicide has gone up slightly.

A: Review the ACT bid and actual potential spending, with Marc Bellaud (ACT) if necessary. Karin will ask ACT about \$1000 discrepancies in abutters cost, and find out more about the pricing.

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Ginny asked if there could be the possibility of volunteer tenders on the ABA boat, to bring costs down.

At this point, Karin's worst case scenario budget requirement is \$287K, so we will need to adjust plans as we go forward.

Paul brought up that we do not receive the state grant money (instead it goes into the Moultonborough general fund) and if we need it, we should ask for it to be added to our fund. For 2015, the town will be getting up to \$15K of state grants for Lake Winnepesaukee, which is a decrease from last year. Also, the town will be getting up to \$3,062 for Lee's Pond.

An OSHA representative has said that there probably should be a different category of requirements for milfoil harvesting, but since these are the current rules, they need to be adhered to.

A: Paul and Scott will work on finding out how to modify the OSHA rules for our category.

A: Karin to share the information on the price increases and the grant reductions with Carter, and she will let him know that we're going to do the due diligence to understand the price increases.

The ACT bid needs to get signed by Carter.

- **New Permitting Rules**

Karin reported that there was a rules hearing where some proposed rules changes were discussed:

There won't be a 90-day minimum review requirement on the permitting.

There may be a slight change in the notification process, including four options: registered or certified mail with Return Request, or a FAX or email with an acknowledgement.

Sampling: volunteer monitors can be trained by DES or UNH to get samples. The committee agreed that we should look in to getting volunteers to get the samples. Paul D. will keep an eye on this.

- **Contracts/DES grants for 2015**

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See above

- Herbicide permit process start

The ball is in Amy's court regarding the permitting process. Paul will check with her on the status.

- Test areas, curtains, etc.

Al provided a map with "Planned sites for 2015". It included a proposed site for a bottom barrier. This test might take two years (to be further planned). Materials are a benthic barrier provided by Amy and rebar to hold the barrier down. Divers will be needed for placement. Rebecca cautioned not to wait too long to pull it up because silt gets on it, plants go through it, and this makes it difficult to pull it out. In her experience there will be mostly milfoil growing through it. She is not sure they had success with actually killing plants, but she thinks it might be of interest to put the barrier there after there has been some other mitigation done. The proposed area is rocky. Scott suggested cement blocks could be used in the center sections. Rebecca said there had been some use of benthic barriers in Maine. She will look for and provide a name for Karin.

The barrier should be put down early in the season, May or June, potentially requiring divers in dry suits, in 8-14 ft of water. Optionally, we could suction off the area first, and then place the barrier.

A: Inquire if we could use volunteer divers for the benthic activity. Need 2 divers – could use Dave Joyce and Bruce potentially.

A: Estimate the cost of experimenting/testing.

On Al's map, there was also a location where we are looking to place a curtain. This would be done mid-June, just before the herbicide treatment. Volunteer divers are needed for this, also. The dimension of the curtain is 600 ft. Al has made an inquiry about how much the curtain weighs and how we can get it or have it delivered.

Lastly, there is an area on the map, marked in green, where we would like to use suction to remove plants because they are in the rocks. This would be done on a regular basis to stress the plants.

- Town meeting planning

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Scott will resurrect notes for contingency if there is a push against our funding. The committee does not feel we need letters to the editor to prepare for the town meeting. Bev suggested we do the letters in May when we are looking for more volunteers.

- Lake Hosts

Paul has found a new person for Lake Host manager: Tracy Waterman. Paul A. will start the job transition between Cathy and Tracy.

### **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.

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: Karin will call Amy today to find out why AB Aquatics has not received the invitation to bid.

A30: Karin will tell Carter that we approved the bids and that he would then get them approved as appropriate.

### **IV. New Action Items**

A31: Scott suggested we ask Bob P. (AB Aquatics) to come in to discuss and justify the new daily rate. Al will set this up.

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A32: Review the ACT bid and actual potential spending, with Marc Bellaud (ACT) if necessary. Karin will ask ACT about \$1000 discrepancies in abutters cost, and find out more about the pricing.

A33: Paul and Scott will work on finding out how to modify the OSHA rules for our category.

A34: Karin to share the information on the price increases and the grant reductions with Carter, and she will let him know that we're going to do the due diligence to understand the price increases.

A35: Inquire if we could use volunteer divers for the benthic activity. Need 2 divers – could use Dave Joyce and Bruce potentially.

A36: Estimate the cost of experimenting/testing.

## **V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., Feb 18, 8:30 AM at the Moultonborough Library.

## **VI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman