

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

For Wednesday, February 18th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

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

**Members Absent:** Dave Joyce, Paul Daisy

**Others Present:** Bob Patterson

The meeting began at 8:35 AM.

## **Agenda**

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

Al moved to approve the minutes of January 22nd, 2015. The motion was seconded by Scott and passed unanimously.

### **II. New Business**

- Karin reviewed the budget summary with Al and made some corrections: the figure for AB Aquatics should be \$1,225 per day, which would be a 29% increase, not a 37% increase as discussed at the last meeting. This means the max figure for harvesting is \$167K, and the final committee conservative budget would be \$276K.
- Welcome Tracy: Tracy Waterman will be the next Managing Lake Host. We discussed asking Tracy if she wants to be an alternate on the committee, as well. Then, she could be Paul Ardito's back-up person in place of Cathy. Cathy and Paul and Tracy have completed the transition activities for the Managing Lake Host position.
- We updated the activities list per Karin. Ginny to distribute.  
To be added/changed:
  - ✓ October/November: Ask for bids
  - ✓ November/December: Bids come in
  - ✓ January: DES selects vendors
  - ✓ January: Accept or reject bids as a board
  - ✓ January: Town signs bids (Carter)

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✓ January/February: Vendor starts permitting.

- Vendor contracts

We discussed when ACT will begin to spend money. Will they spend any before the town meeting? Karin wanted to figure out, if we decided not to do any herbicide treatment on Lee's Pond, would ACT have already spent any money on the permitting. The opt-out clause in the contract is for if the permit is not approved.

- AB Aquatics pricing justifications:

Al Hoch recused himself from this portion of the meeting.

Bob Paterson (AB Aquatics) reviewed the details with the committee. The 2014 rate for the Tri-town DASH was \$925 per day; the contractor boat was \$950, diver hand removal was \$750. For 2015, no Tri-town DASH rate is offered from AB Aquatics because they would have to know if it would be properly equipped for OSHA before using it. OSHA changes needed include communication and flag updates. If it were updated to OSHA specs, AB Aquatics could provide a rate but it would be difficult for the Tri-town DASH to include the full face mask since they are fit per diver; and if AB Aquatics brings their own face masks, the regulator system might not be compatible with AB aquatics masks. AB Aquatics prefers their own boat to the Tri-town DASH.

The diver hand removal rate for 2015 is \$1,375 per day, which is much higher than \$750 from last year. AB aquatics wasn't presenting this with the idea that any harvesting would be done this way, because it is not cost effective. The rate is high because AB Aquatics interpreted OSHA requirements to mean they'd have to pay the tender at diver rates.

Bob said he could envision using two divers harvesting with the 2<sup>nd</sup> diver tethered to the boat with communication lines and surface supplied air off the boat. AB Aquatics is not entertaining scuba tank diving. This scenario would be cost effective, but the area to be harvested would have to apply to this scenario, as well as AB Aquatics staffing scheduling. This could be done during a limited amount of time. The additional person would probably be about \$750 a day.

The communication line is a safety rope.

For 2015 the contractor owned DASH rate \$1,225 per day. Without new OSHA requirements there would have been a 5% cost increase to about \$995. Adding the 3<sup>rd</sup> person (not a diver) is the biggest part of the increase at 8 hours a day, \$15 an hour. This is \$120 a day, with overhead \$180 cost to AB Aquatics. The additional \$45 is amortized equipment cost and maintenance, and administration cost.

A volunteer tender is not feasible because of the logistics of scheduling (8 hours a day), etc.

In order for AB Aquatics to roll out the season and get ready for the entire summer, they need to pull triggers on new equipment in the next couple weeks.

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OSHA is going to be doing inspections this summer.

Scott is concerned that OSHA requirements and upgrades have not been discussed in the Tri-town committee.

4-wire full duplex communication is required. Wireless communication typically doesn't work because of silt, engine reverberation and wave action. Scott suggested AB Aquatics look into doing a test on the wireless communication with the vendor.

Scott moved that we accept the AB Aquatics bid as received. The motion was seconded by Bev and passed unanimously.

- ACT bid for Lake Winnepesaukee

Last year the projected largest total cost was \$90K while our actual cost was under \$50K.

- ACT - Lee's Pond herbicide versus DASH

Karin's analyzed the cost of herbicide versus hand pulling the small area identified at Lee's Pond.

The total cost of herbicide to the 1 to 4 acre area, including permitting, sampling, etc. came out to \$6100. This is equivalent to 5 days of DASH. The area is silty. If we herbicide this area we would still have to go back and potentially hand pull it later.

Karin spoke with Marc B. during the meeting to figure out if any of the permitting cost had been spent already.

Bev said she believes this area had been chemically treated several times, early on in the program. The theory is that there has been trouble with herbicide effectiveness there because of water flow.

Scott Bartlett moved that we do not do any herbicide treatment in Lee's Pond, and that we proceed with DASH work only. This was seconded by Paul Ardito and passed unanimously.

- Amy/5 year plans: Amy is in the process of updating the 5 year plan.
- Notification list for ACT: Paul D. is getting together with Marc to update the abutters notification list.
- Al reported about test spots
  - a. Benthic barrier: Amy's crew (boat and divers) will put the barrier down. Karin will ask Amy how much rebar will be needed. We will also need 12-inch tie wraps.
  - b. Curtain: the plan is for volunteer divers to be used for this

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- Info from Rebecca Hanson provided Karin with information about barriers. Karin to send to Ginny, Ginny to forward to the committee.
- Lake Host Program:  
Paul Ardito reported there will be grant applications for the Lake Host program. We are down to 8 volunteers.

The committee discussed if we want to man the Balmoral ramp next year. Costs could go up if we have to use a paid person. Karin suggested we should have a presence there occasionally, for education purposes. It was disappointing that there were no volunteers from Balmoral to man the ramp.

Ginny/Paul will work on the volunteer request and perhaps advertise on facebook.

- Weed watchers:  
The committee discussed extending the weed watchers program to Kanasatka and Squam Lake. Bev is to coordinate the weed watching training with Rebecca Hanson (SLA) for more coverage.

### **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. (Karin dropped off requests for nuts and washers to a few local businesses) We want 300 markers for next year. Karin found twine at Lowes. \$15 dollars worth of noodles. Karin will keep on this. Production should be done in April.

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.

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

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.

A36: Estimate the cost of experimenting/testing. Ongoing.

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**IV. New Action Items**

A37: Paul D. is getting together with Marc to update the abutters notification list.

A38: Ginny/Paul will work on the volunteer request and perhaps advertise on facebook.

A39: Bev is to coordinate the weed watching training with Rebecca Hanson (SLA) for more coverage.

**V. Next Meeting**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wed., March 25th, 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