

**Conservation Commission**

**Milfoil Committee Minutes**

For Wednesday, July 29th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

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

**Members Absent:** Dave Joyce, Bev Nelson

**Others Present:** None

The meeting began at 8:35 AM.

**Agenda**

**I. Approval of Minutes:**

Ginny G. moved to approve the minutes of 6/24/15, which was seconded by Al and passed unanimously.

**II. New Business**

- Lakes Region Planning Comm.: Karin attended the last meeting of the LRPC at which the MMC received an award of excellence for “Protecting the Quality of the Lake and the Economic Health of the Region.”
- MJB: We received a check from the MJB for \$18,489.46 and we are now out of the group. Karin wrote a note to the Selectboard to request that some, at least, of these funds should go into the trust fund instead of the general fund.
- Accounting update: Al reports that we have about 38 days left of the 130 budgeted for harvesting, including all water bodies being worked in Moultonborough. The cost of both herbicide treatments has come in under the estimated amounts in the contract.

Al reported we will have a lot of test money left over. Marc Bellaud (ACT) said he would charge us \$1K to pick up the limno curtain. We will leave the cement blocks as markers.

- Treatments (June/July): According to Al all the treated sites look good. We discussed our theory that the day-of-treatment weather might determine the effectiveness of the treatment. This time, it doesn't look like the weather had an impact. This may be because we increased the dosage in some of the areas treated. Paul D. will get the details on which areas had the higher dosage herbicide.

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The committee discussed the sign wording. The state Dept of Agriculture has developed the wording for the sign which implies that you can't swim for 2 days within 1200 ft of the treatment. Paul suggested that they could better word the restrictions on the signs. Paul will look into the difference between requirements for swimming, ornamental plants, and drinking, which is not clear in the signs. Paul will also look into whether there is a difference in these restrictions with the higher dosage of herbicide.

Karin got a call from someone from Salmon Meadow Cove who had drunk the water after the June treatment because they did not receive their certified letter until they got to the post office a few days after they arrived in the area. She said it would be better to use her out of state address. The caller has a charcoal filter which reportedly breaks down 2,4 -D, but this is not officially supported by regulators.

For the July treatment, two areas were added to the treatment plan that resulted in a lot of shoreline having to be posted even though the total area of treatment was not large in terms of acres. Paul asked if it really is more effective to treat in July than in September. Ginny was uncomfortable with the impact of the July treatment due to the high population on the lake.

Ginny moved that the committee should vote to approve all proposed herbicide treatment areas before the treatment occurs, seconded by Paul, and passed unanimously.

- Harvesting Update: Al reported that harvesting is going well. ABA has been working in Ash Cove and Salmon Meadow Cove. Scott and Al traversed SMC with sonar, plotting the deeper places. There is milfoil 500 ft from shore. The previously treated places look good, but there are new places found.

QC has found that one of the groups of harvesters has gotten only 50% or 60% of milfoil. The new crew seems to need more training. ABA is paying the new guys less money. Karin wonders if we should get a discount for the subpar work. Al said Bobby has worked with the divers involved. Karin asked Al to ask Bobby for a discount for the new team. Scott reminded us that Bobby had volunteered much time for the curtain project. Paul suggested we wait and see if the new team improves.

QC has counted harvesting of 1,359 gallons (ABA invoiced 1460 gallons) at Lee's Pond. On Winnie, QC counted 6,237 gallons harvested (invoiced 5807).

- Test sites update: The benthic barrier that Amy put down turned out the very small and did not cover more than a fifth of the area we were hoping to get covered.

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She gave us permission to vacuum that section to keep that section at bay while we complete the test (we can't treat and we don't want to spend time harvesting there). The plan is to take the barrier and flip it over onto another section.

All the areas look good, so it's unclear what results we'll get with the curtains. Al will check the vacuuming site late in August to see if more is needed. Karin asked if they can avoid the native plants during vacuuming. Al said, some of them.

- OSHA update: The letter was signed and sent from the town and responded to verbally. The answer is "no," milfoil harvesting is a commercial activity so the vendors need to follow the rules and regulations as they exist. Scott made the letter available to the tri-town group, who were not as interested since they believe their vendors are complying with OSHA as written. Scott will decide if he will pursue a NH diving organization for support to getting the OSHA rules adapted to the harvesting job.
- Weed samples – Karin passed out weed samples found in Lee's Pond.
- Weed watchers: Bev said through Karin, that the ones that are reporting are doing a good job especially in the areas of known milfoil.
- Document archive: A file system has been set up on a server at the town offices. We will gather information for this archive yearly in November. Ginny will add this to the activities list.
- Balmoral canal will need to be treated in September. According to reports from Bob G. ABA pulled the front and the back of the canal. It was treated two years ago. This is a dangerous spot due to boat traffic.

### ACTION ITEMS

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

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

A35: Ginny will ask Bill G. to make graphs of historical data for the web site. Ongoing

A38: Paul D. will get the details on which areas had the higher dosage of herbicide in the July treatment.

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A39: Paul D. will look into the difference between restrictions for swimming, ornamental plants, and drinking after the herbicide treatment, which is not clear in the posting signs. Paul will also look into whether there is a difference in these restrictions with the higher dosage of herbicide. Paul will talk to the State Dept of Agriculture about the unclear working on the signs.

A40: Follow up on where the \$18,000 went from MJB (Either Karin or Paul A)

V. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 26, 2015 at 8:30 AM at the Moultonborough Public Library

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson  
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman