

Conservation Commission

Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, August 26th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

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

Members Absent: Dave Joyce, Paul Ardito

Others Present: Bob Goffredo

The meeting began at 8:35 AM.

Agenda

I. Approval of Minutes:

Paul D. moved to approve the minutes of 8/26/15 with the correction below, which was seconded by Al and passed unanimously.

Correction: Bob Goffredo attended the meeting.

II. New Business

- Review September herbicide plan: Al moved that we approve the September treatment map of 18 acres, seconded by Ginny and passed unanimously. ACT will do the mailing of certified letters.

Posting: The committee will ask ACT to make different color signs for each treatment, so that people can easily distinguish posters.

- Budgeting for remaining DASH days: Karin reviewed the MMC financials. The spreadsheet needed to have the curtain fee added. The fund balance is \$52,797, but the remaining amount of approved spending from BOS is \$24,030. The Lee's Pond portion is over budget based on our estimates this spring, but the bottom line is positive. Harvesting is invoiced up to August.

Karin asked if the \$24K is enough to finish planned harvesting. Doing the math, it looks like \$24K will cover the plans and we do not need to ask BOS for more. Al says there will be a few sparse areas (individual plants) that will wait until next year.

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In some areas, AB Aquatics is working for \$565 additional a day by sending out an extra diver on the same boat, effective because the DASH diver is doing the heavy stuff and the other diver is cleaning up the edges. This is being done in areas that lend itself to this type of harvesting. Where does the additional \$565 come from when adding the additional diver? Paul A. says this sounds high to us. Action: Karin will get the details of the pricing for the two diver configuration for the additional \$565 and try to negotiate a better price with ABA.

Al is planning to vacate Lee's Mills around Sept 3rd, so all the equipment will be out of there for the Steamboat rally. Hopefully harvesting will be complete for the season.

Bobby (ABA) asked how much harvesting we are likely to do next year. The committee has no specific information but believes 130 days is a good estimate.

Priority for DASH locations remaining: We are harvesting around Ganzy Island, Castle Shores, in the Cove near Suissevale, Birchhill Island, Lee's Pond, Salmon Meadow Cove and vacuuming in some shoals. We are not touching Blackey Cove until next spring.

- DES grant application due 9/15: The committee discussed the pre-application for next year's grant. Karin will have the Town Administrator sign and it will be sent to Amy Smagula (DES).
- Lake Winnepesaukee Association meeting: The committee discussed what kind of follow up we can expect from LWA. The UNH Professor who spoke confirmed that the presence of milfoil could have a 10% property value reduction effect.
- Conversation with AB Aquatics: Karin suggested that markers be stowed appropriately. She also suggested that new divers should be assigned to obvious milfoil areas. She asked that ABA keep bags at about 20 gallons. Karin offered to train new divers.
- Surveying: We found native milfoil in Wyman lagoon, Karin sent a photo to Amy, who confirmed. We are seeing lots of native milfoil and other native plants this year.

Langdon Cove – Al surveyed there thoroughly, there are lots of native plants but he found no milfoil.

Al would like ABA to do a ½ day survey at Salmon Meadow Cove. We need to find the deep area that is generating a lot of milfoil fragments. We would be charged the same rate as harvesting since ABA used the same equipment. Karin suggested that we get a cheaper survey rate next year. Also she would like ABA to think of ways we can get cheaper rates as the milfoil gets sparser.

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Karin to ask Amy about the underwater boat with camera that was planned.

- Weed watchers: Weed watchers have asked to have a class on how to better report GPS points. For instance “Easy GPS” can consolidate points by date and then they can be uploaded to Google Maps. Bev developed a worksheet for the weed watchers including a place to put GPS points.

In the future we may have to figure out how to be more precise in indicating where the milfoil is as it gets sparser. Bev suggests we ask Amy if we can have more thorough surveys from DES. We need to focus weed watchers on some of the places that are hard to find.

- OSHA:
Paul Daisy doesn't hold out much hope for OSHA to change their mind about the diver boat requirements. ABA likes the communication change, but they don't see much value in having two people above on the boat. Amy has some meetings in November and December with national groups where she will bring up the issues.
- Sign posting changes: Paul D. spoke to the NH Dept. of Agriculture about the verbiage on the signs and they agreed to work on the problems. Paul would like to see two different signs, one for swimming and drinking and one for landscape plants. Different color signs for different treatments were suggested. Also we'd like ACT to make a black and white poster or file available for the web page to notify when water restrictions are lifted. Ginny and Paul wonder how the certified letter to abutters correlates with sign posting. Should these not be the same households?
- Details of herbicide treatments:
June: 14 acres 142 lbs herbicide per acre, 177 abutters
July: 21 acres, 142 lbs herbicide per acre, 181 abutters
The same application strength was used in all areas.
- “50 years” article: The milfoil article was in the Concord Monitor this week.
- Bob Goffredo brought in some pictures of Balmoral Canal where there is a new weed (crystal ivy). This area is in the plan to be treated in September.

ACTION ITEMS

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

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

A41: Karin will get the details of the pricing for the two diver configuration for the additional \$565 and try to negotiate a better price with ABA.

A42: Ginny to add to the Activities List: submit people to be invited to the volunteer luncheon in August.

V. Next Meeting

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

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman