

Conservation Commission

Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, November 4th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

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

Others Present: Bob Paterson (AB Aquatics), Tracy Waterman

Members Absent: Dave Joyce

The meeting began at 8:32 AM.

I. **Agenda:**

- **Minutes:** Al moves to accept the minutes of September 30, 2015 as amended, seconded by Paul Ardito, and approved unanimously. In the 2016 budget table, change “water testing” to “site testing”.
- **AB Aquatics:** Bob Patterson attended the meeting and discussed some issues for next season:

Bob said AB Aquatics would like a long term contract, because they would like to make some decisions about personnel, and do some work on the boats. He said planning is difficult without the assurance of a contract. He would want to be the selected vendor but would not need to include dollar amounts. Paul Daisy said there would have to be a performance clause and there would have to be an escape clause should the town not approve funds. Bob said AB Aquatics would guarantee a rate over the three years with no increase, although if gas goes over \$5 a gal there would be a 1 or 2 % increase. Normally other vendors would increase more than 2% a year.

AB Aquatics is working to enable a harvesting configuration with a second diver on the boat using a DASH hose. The divers would be working together with communication to the tender. One diver would have a 50-100 ft hose working on the main patch, while the other diver would have up to 300 ft of line. For this configuration, AB Aquatics needs another suction engine and air system on the boat. With this equipment they could guarantee the 2nd diver rate. The second diver rate for the potential three year contract would be \$550 a day (this is more than the negotiated rate of \$426 we had this year). In the scenario where 25% of budget is one boat with a single diver, 25% of the budget is two boats each with single diver, and 50% of the budget is 2 boats with three divers, we could get 142 DASH days instead of 130 days over the summer. This is more diver time underwater with the same amount of expense.

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We have budgeted for 130 days. But we need to look at per dive day cost. One diver per day is \$1225 for single diver. Two divers per day is \$1775 for two divers per boat. This is a deal for us if the location warrants the two diver configuration. Karin did some quick calculations saying this could reduce our costs to \$138K instead of \$160K for our 130 days.

Paul Daisy asked why the increase from \$425 to \$550? Bob answered; this is adding an experienced diver, with overhead. There is more nonproductive time hauling in the hose, etc. Paul D. supports the 3 year contract arrangement, but he has a problem with the increase to \$550 for the 2nd diver.

Al will ask Bob to bring a handout or contract language with him next time.

Al believes there are a good many sites that could use two divers. These would be large sites they are going to be harvesting for several days.

Karin brought up that we have to figure out how best to direct the divers to where the milfoil is; maps or markers.

- **Committee changes:** Paul Daisy and Paul Ardito are both interested in moving on from the committee. Amy Lindamood has committed to joining the group and should be able to join shortly.

Al Hoch nominated Tracy Waterman as a committee alternate, seconded by Ginny and passed unanimously.

- **Annual Reports:** Scott passed out the text for the Moultonborough newsletter. He also passed out a draft for the Annual Town Report and BOS letter. He needs info on the amount of milfoil treated in acres and the number of saves. The committee is to send Scott any feedback for the report. Paul would like to add a stronger message about the difficulty getting volunteers.
- **Finances/2016 budget:** Karin reconciled all the numbers from prior years. She has asked Heidi about some discrepancies.

Paul D. suggested we should not ask for above \$200K. There was some discussed on asking for a total of \$225K, which would be \$200K from the town and \$25K in grants.

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Paul Daisy made motion change the warrant article request from \$240K to \$225K, seconded Paul Ardito, which passed 5 to 2.

- **DES:** Karin sent out a request for bid to ACT, via DES. She also informed DES we are estimating 130 DASH days needed for 2016.
- **OSHA letter/plan:** We received a letter saying the current OSHA requirements applied to our application.
- **Sept Herbicide results/notices:** There were 18 acres treated. Al reported that the milfoil looks down but this may be because it's cold. Officially, the notices can come down.

Action: Paul D. will send an email to Bob Wolff to see if there has been any progress on whether the notice language can be changed.

Action: Karin will ask if any changes were made in the last notice.

- **Historical Data Archive:** The annual reports will be archived and Scott will forward prior year reports. Also, Karin is working on historical data and this will be included.

Action: Ginny to talk to Alison about how to link about the fertilizer use info to web the site.

Action: Ginny to draft a letter to the editor re: fertilizer.

- **Party:** Paul Daisy's Christmas party will be on Wed, December 16 at 6 PM.

II. Action Items

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

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

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

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A43: The committee will work on how to have weed watchers indicate milfoil with markers – All

A46: Ginny is to put Al's maps on the archival server at the town hall - ongoing

A48: Paul D. will send an email to Bob Wolff to see if there has been any progress on whether the notice language can be changed.

A49: Karin will ask if any changes were made in the last notice.

A50: Ginny to talk to Alison about how to link about the fertilizer use info to web the site.

A51: Ginny to draft a letter to the editor re: fertilizer.

III. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 9th, 2015 at 8:30 AM at the Moultonborough Public Library

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman