

Conservation Commission

Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

Members Present: Chairman Karin Nelson, Al Hoch, Ginny Gassman, Paul Daisy, Amy Lindamood, Bev Nelson

Others Present: Bob Paterson (AB Aquatics), Bob Goffredo, Walter Johnson

Members Absent: Dave Joyce, Scott Bartlett, Paul Ardito, Tracy Waterman

The meeting began at 8:30 AM.

Agenda:

- Minutes

Paul Daisy moved to accept the minutes of November 4th, seconded by Al and approved unanimously with the clarification below.

Al asked that we clarify that the \$426 per day mentioned in the minutes was for hand pulling and not for an additional DASH diver.

- Committee Membership

Paul Daisy made a motion that Amy Lindamood replace him as a member of the Milfoil Committee, effective the next meeting and going forward after he resigns at the end of the meeting. The motion was seconded by Bev and approved unanimously.

- AB Aquatics proposal

Bob Paterson proposed the price of \$508 for an additional diver, that would make the total double-diver boat \$1733 per day. AB Aquatics came down from \$550 to \$508 for the additional diver. The committee will confer with AB Aquatics on the appropriate times and places for the double diver to be used.

Bob detailed that 3-year contract that AB Aquatics would like to negotiate. Karin asked how this would affect DES. Bob said that DES is used to dealing with 3-year contracts with Moultonborough and other places. Paul Daisy will send Amy Smagula (DES) an email to find out if she has any concerns. Also he will follow up with Amy about DES contacting AB Aquatics about the 2016 contract.

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Walter Johnson (Town Administrator) stated there is no issue with a 3-year contract that would hold rates and have no minimum requirements in terms of services. AB Aquatics is to bring it forward. The committee and Walter will review it and Walter will prepare the Select board.

- Discussion with Bob Wolff regarding changes to signs and notification:

Paul D. reported that Bob Wolff has not given us any update on this. Amy L. will take this on after Paul leaves the group. Bev said there is too much information on the sign and it needs to be more succinct and bulleted. The committee already gave our input. Paul will forward our input to Bob W.

- Finances/ACT invoice/budget finalize/BOS memo- Karin

Karin detailed the ACT invoices: permit application, abutter list, Legal ads, Treatment, Sample test, and surveys. Permitting is over 10% of the expense and sampling is also over 10%. One way we can reduce these expenses is by cutting down to two applications a year. The committee discussed deleting the July treatment. This is also the busiest part of the year and a good time to avoid herbicide.

We had a lot of expenses for notification of abutters even though the areas treated were smaller because homes were still within 1200 ft.

For budgeting: Karin reviewed her spreadsheet. Al believes if we don't get to harvesting all the milfoil then we'll be right back to the infestation levels of prior years. He would like to ask for all the funds we have estimated that we need. Costs are going up for herbicide treatments by 5%. This is the first year that we treated everything that we found. But it is a sure thing that we haven't found all the milfoil.

Grant money should increase this year. Bob P. suggested we discuss with Amy to see if there is more grant money to be had.

The committee discussed the defense of the request for \$225K because in all previous years we have requested \$200K. We could put some factual information out in front of the town meeting. Action: for the committee to prepare this information, as long as there is no soliciting.

- Sampling costs/posting changes:

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Karin received an invoice from ACT for \$9K which was unexpected. There were a few errors, but in the end the invoice was still \$6700 which was more than expected. Most of the bill was for sampling. There were 34 samples taken in 2015. This was much more than in the past, and Bob Wolff (NH Dept of Ag.) has increased the number of samples required all over the state. Two samples, 30 days apart after each treatment are required. Karin has an issue with why we would need to pay for extra samples since the data they are collecting doesn't seem to make sense. They are concerned there would be more chemical disbursements after 30 days, from a pellet that has hit the bottom. Information about why this data is required has never been supplied to the committee. It is an Amy L. action item to request clarification on this. Karin suggested we get together with other towns via LWA on this point.

The committee would like to ACT to call us when there are unexpected costs like above.

This put the committee about \$2K over what the BOS authorized us to spend. Karin wrote a memo asking for the BOS to approve covering this. This would be presented at the next budget workshop on the 18th.

- LWA- Fall Wrap-up- Scott

Scott presented at the recent LWA meeting.

Native weeds: Bev believes we need to educate the community on the importance of native weeds. Certain algae are good for our water. We or the conservation commission could do an education program.

- Annual Report

Scott completed the annual report. Ginny is to put the report on the town hall server.

- Meet with town admin.: finances, OSHA- Karin

The town is not bound OSHA regulations, but our vendors, as for-profit companies, are bound by OSHA.

- ACT Bid

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The total program estimate was \$94K for 2016, which was the same as last year but the price increased by 5%. Al suggested we inform them that we will eliminate the July treatment. We also need to tell Amy.

ACT wants us to accept the bid in January but we can't accept it until we have the town meeting in March. The only money they spend early is the notifications that go out in February.

Al moved to accept as group the ACT contract as received bearing in mind that we will eliminate the July treatment and ask that they look at their sampling estimates, seconded by Ginny and passed unanimously. The contract does not need to go in our archive.

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.

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

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. Spring. (Also for native plants.)

A52: Amy L. to get clarification from the Dept. of Agriculture on why so much sampling was done without notice.

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III. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan 13th, 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

DRAFT