

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, February 17th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

Members Present: Chairman Karin Nelson, Al Hoch, Ginny Gassman (by phone), Amy Lindamood, Tracy Waterman, Scott Bartlett, Bev Nelson

Others Present: Walter Johnson, Bob Goffredo

Members Absent: Dave Joyce, Paul Ardito

The meeting began at 8:30 AM.

Agenda:

1. Minutes: Al moved to accept the minutes of 1/13, which was seconded by Amy and passed unanimously

Tracy is being seated as a voting member for this meeting.

2. AB Aquatics Contract status: Walter reported the contract has been reviewed and the insurance company is taking note.

Amy Smagula (DES) reported to Karin that Aqualogics was also bidding and they are charging \$895 per 6-hour day plus \$100 for an initial service charge. This is opposed to \$1197 per day bid by AB Aquatics. For two divers our price with ABA is \$1735. If you double the Aqualogics daily rate to get two divers we are saving money. Aqualogics has said they are compliant with OSHA.

Originally, we compared the quality of AB Aquatics with Aqualogics and decided the higher price was worth it. Using the \$ per plant metric, AB Aquatics was a better deal. The committee discussed if we should do another comparison of the vendors for the 2016 season.

The state puts out an RFP for this work which is sent to all qualified diver companies on their list. This year, two companies bid. Aqualogics won the bid as the lowest bidder. Amy S. said we don't need to go with them but, obviously, we will be paying more, and our grant "rebate" is based on the lowest bidder so the numbers would be less. From due diligence Aqualogics' bid needs to be looked at, according to Walter, who has offered to talk to Amy S. about the process.

Al suggested we give Walter the old comparison that we did originally. Karin asked: can we save a portion of the work for Aqualogics so we can evaluate their work. Walter will look into if we can use both vendors. If not we will look into checking their references and do a comparison with one of Aqualogics' customers. Some of our questions are:

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Does Aqualogics have a small boat and will they be able to meet our needs? Will they be able to accommodate our QC procedure?

Since ABA is looking for a 3-year contract we will need to look at this immediately. A rough swag is that we would save more than \$30K using Aqualogics.

3. DES grant: we got a grant award of up to \$59K this year. This is compared to \$18K last year. We will probably get it all. Up to now, the grants have gotten recognized in the town's miscellaneous accounts. Amy said the potential \$59K grant money could be used interchangeably between herbicide and hand pulling. For the grant, Walter will do the paperwork which is due the 29th.
4. Town meeting
 - Budget hearing: Karin attended the budget hearing. There were no comments about milfoil. The warrant is recommended by the select board and the budget committee.
 - Hall info table: We will have the following at the table:
 1. Bev has 50 of the clean/drain/dry pamphlets,
 2. Amy S. is to provide weed identification sheets, both paper and laminated
 3. Ginny will edit a "Volunteer Help Wanted" sheet from previous versions, also the sheet on what to do about native plants and the sheet on use of fertilizer near the lake
 4. Al's comparison Y to Y sheet,
 5. A few of Al's "Zones 1-24" notebooks,
 6. Ginny to work on a chart showing Total work done by year
 7. A Lake Host handout to be provided by Paul A.
 8. We will put the "Big map" on the wall near the table.
 9. We will have a Clip board with an interest and volunteer sign-up sheet
 - Table: Ginny will man the table during the school board agenda. During lunchtime, breaks, before and after the meeting, Scott, Ginny, Amy L., Al and Karin will man the table.

At the town meeting we can't lobby to pass the warrant article. But we can talk about the past, what we've done, the fact that we get grant money to offset town money. Walter suggested we be careful about being specific. We should not focus a lot of time on the \$'s.

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5. Members/alternates/back-ups?

Tracy is interested in being a member, but may not be able to come to meetings for a little while due to personal reasons, so will remain as alternate for the time being. Karin will speak to Paul about if/when he wants to move on. Tracy will not be able to work on lake hosting for now, so Karin will see if Paul can get things rolling as appropriate for the season.

As a reminder, we currently have the following backups arranged: Karin and Amy and Paul; Ginny and Bev; Scott and Al

6. State sampling- any update?

Amy has reviewed the state sampling situation with Paul Daisy. It has been in practice for some time to sample the lake for herbicide twice, 30-days apart after applications. Amy L. is planning to reach out to Amy S. to find out her philosophies. This will happen in March. Then she will reach out to Bob Wolff (Dept. of Agriculture). Amy L. will be looking for a more open dialog and to try to eliminate surprise charges for sampling and things like paying a premium for sampling on a Sunday. The committee is to email any Bob Wolff questions to Amy L.

7. House Bill 1589: This bill is about the clean and drain strategy for boats. Drying the boat is suggested but not mandatory. It would be a finable offense if you are using a body of water and are found with a weed hanging on your boat. The bill passed one of the state committees unanimously. There might be a vote this week. Stay tuned: it could change our message and our materials.

8. NY conference: Ken Wagner contacted Karin about a conference in New York. He did a presentation on how hand harvesting has been successful. They have Eurasian milfoil. Karin is forwarding his PowerPoint. Some of his information is very good for plant identification.

9. Markers: We will be making and giving markers to Al, and perhaps some of the weed watchers. During the season, we will be in communication about where harvesting is occurring during the next week and then we can contact the people to put the markers out. Karin is starting to go through the materials to get ready for 150 markers.

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For Wednesday, January 13th, 2015 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Public Library

ACTION ITEMS:

- A21: Karin will discuss further with Amy, in order to have a program in shallow water for harvesting. Status: ongoing. Latest update: Bob Paterson said he would follow up on shallow water pulling.
- A35: Ginny will ask Bill G. to make graphs of historical data for the web site. Ongoing, Ginny is working on a second draft.
- 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 – done
- 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. – ongoing
- A50: Ginny to talk to Alison about how to link about the fertilizer use info to web the site. – ongoing
- 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. Ongoing
- A53: Ginny and Bev to work on handouts for the town meeting - ongoing
- A54: Scott to do a draft letter to the editor in advance of the town meeting. (draft out Monday.)
- A55: Karin will organize making 150 markers.
- A56: Al to work on projected treatment list.
- A57: Amy will get in touch with Solitude (ACT) to update on the tax map. Supposedly the same players are involved at Solitude.
- A58: Initiate grant application for lake host program - Karin to ask Paul Ardito about this.
- A59: Spring newsletter: will go out in late may. Cutoff date is mid may. Scott suggested this is a good idea because it's contact with our wider summer audience. Scott will draft something.

III. Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 2nd, 2016 at 8:30 AM at the Moultonborough Public Library

IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ginny Gassman
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Secretary

Karin Nelson
Moultonborough Milfoil Committee, Chairman