

Town of Moultonborough

6 Holland Street • Post Office Box 139
Moultonborough, N.H. 03254
(603) 476-2347

Conservation Commission Milfoil Committee Minutes

Nov. 23rd, 2009

Members Present: Chairman Peter Jensen, Secretary Joanne Farnham, Steven Maguire, Barbara Rando, Paul Daisy, Nancy Wright, Jim Leiterman, Karin Nelson, Bob Boyan, Bob Clark

Members Excused: Susan Connolly, Herb Farnham, Bob Boyan

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of minutes from the meeting on Nov. 17th, 2009 was deferred to the next meeting.

New Business: The committee reviewed and commented on the meeting that Peter and Bob had with Town Planner Dan Merhalski. The primary purpose of the meeting was to initiate getting a Milfoil Committee Web Page setup on the town's web site. Dan said the web page might be up as soon as later in the same day. Peter submitted minutes, meeting notices, some milfoil web links, the milfoil map, and the committee's goals statement for the initial creation of the web page. Peter said he would send everyone an email when he sees the page up and has asked everyone to fully examine the first cut, and to suggest improvements to make the page a good resource for education of residents. Nancy commented that the site should include the economic reports referenced in the presentation to the Selectboard (Dr. Nordstrom's report, Dr. Halstead's economic report, and the Fish and Game report). In the meeting Dan had expressed concern that the State may not match funds for a milfoil effort unless shoreline owners are also contributing private funds. The committee does not share this view but will verify the state's position on this with DES. Bob discussed his concurrence with Dan that Education of the voters will be the key to a successful petition warrant article at town meeting. Steve asked if Dan had any other suggestions. Bob responded that Dan said to convince the voters of Moultonborough we need to tell them how much it will cost them, what will get done with the money and why we should spend it. Bob reviewed his thoughts on the plan; Our argument will be 1st) it will cost them \$100,000; 2nd) the state approved 5 year plan will explain what will get done, and the negative financial implications for the area are why we should spend the money to control the problem. There was no consensus on the dollar amount we should request as we are still reviewing cost, treatment options and scope of infestation. Peter reviewed Karin's responses from DES' Amy Smagula that her initial estimate; a) was probably low and included only one chemical treatment; and b)

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

Nov. 23rd, 2009

that if we had sufficient funds, the control effort could be more effective if we were able to perform follow-up spot removal and perhaps even a follow-up same-season second herbicide treatment for the very persistent areas. Peter will extend an open invitation to Dan to meet with us as he is able. In the meeting Dan had initially indicated he did not think our committee had the support of the Selectboard and his opinion was based on the minutes of the Selectboard meeting. The committee then questioned if Peter thought the committee had the Selectboard's support. Peter said we should expect to get the same kind of support that any other petition warrant article gets; that if we get support from the Selectboard it will occur in a vote of support following a hearing on warrant articles and that in addition, the four Selectboard members present when the initial request presentation was made to the Selectboard all indicated they would sign the petition.

Peter asked for subcommittee volunteers to develop an education document/flyer that would be used as a basic financial explanation of why we need to control milfoil and what we expect to do to control milfoil. Paul volunteered.

Old Business: Peter spoke to Mike Lancor about use of the auditorium and Paw Prints. Mike said the deadline for Paw Prints submissions was the 15th of the month prior to the publication. Mike said the person to contact for use of the auditorium was Donna Conway and that there is an online auditorium use request form that will have to be completed.

Barbara said she is contacting associations and people she knows of about the committee's efforts. She will work with Paul to fill in as much information as she can gather on a map.

Steve asked if there was an update on contacting people to speak to us and to the residents. Peter reminded the committee that Bob Boyan had already contacted Mr. Bellaud from a Herbicide treatment company targeting to speak to us on Dec. 8th and would find out about later availability for an educational session in the auditorium. Nancy has asked Mary Ann Murray from the Lake Hosts program to speak to us at our Dec. 8th meeting. Mr. Bellaud is not confirmed. Karin said she had spoken with Bob Patterson, owner of AB Aquatics, Inc., and he is willing to come speak whenever we ask. Barbara said that once we have a date and time scheduled for the presentation for residents she will communicate it to the newspapers serving other towns around the area. Barbara said she would bring a list of these newspapers to the Dec. 8th meeting.

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

Nov. 23rd, 2009

There was consensus that the meeting to educate residents should occur at the end of February with an early March backup date. Nancy suggested including in the list of potential speakers DES' Amy Smagula and someone from the Lakes Region Planning Commission. Peter suggested we also try to get Prof. John Halstead to speak on the economics. Paul suggested, and the committee agreed by consensus, to create a subcommittee to organize and plan the presentation. Peter, Karin and Nancy volunteered with Joanne volunteering Herb. Karin said she is working to find a map suitable for displaying all the associations and the parts of the lake they take responsibility for. Barbara suggested she speak with Herb as he is our LRPC rep. and the Selectboard have given us their OK to deal directly with the LRPC through either Barb Perry or Herb Farnham.

Karin reviewed cost information for Diver units from Bob Patterson. Bob is state certified diver also certified to hand pick milfoil. He is on the State's Milfoil Summit. He is in the process of getting approval from the state for his new design efforts that will dramatically lower costs for hand picking the weed. Bob estimates he can get the platform and equipment costs down to between \$3,500 to \$5,100 from their current \$10K+. The per diver startup costs for skin divers using a detached air supply can come down considerably from their current levels and the per hour rate could potentially come down to \$20 per hour. Open questions are those surrounding liability insurance. Karin will get more information as it becomes available.

Paul reviewed the current draft of his subcommittee's warrant article seeking a reserve fund for treating the milfoil problem. There was a discussion about whether we needed to specify guidance for distributing the dollars according to some sort of priority. Many prioritizing options were discussed that ranged from which infested areas were in most need of treatment to which areas had the most volunteers to which areas contributed additional private funds. Also, many members believe that we should not create any kind of prioritization based on contribution of time or money but rather prioritize only on basis of need and then only if we do not have sufficient resources to begin treatment of all mapped areas in the first season. This issue remains unresolved.

Peter took a few moments to review potential cost savings for consolidating milfoil efforts; for an average size of infestation at 10 acres, and for 200 acres, and assuming the fixed fees for each permit at \$4,200 before the per acre cost of herbicide is added, then the total cost of 20 ten-acre permits would be \$84,000 vs. \$4,200 for one consolidated permit for all 200 acres.

Conservation Commission
Milfoil Committee Minutes

Nov. 23rd, 2009

Karin reviewed the typical process saying that the herbicide treatment company can cover at least 30 acres in a single day; they take care of all the notifications the rest of the permitting process. Any areas that cannot be treated with herbicide must be treated with divers pulling the weed by hand. Nancy suggested that the town buy a harvester. Peter asked Nancy to find out what it would cost to purchase a harvester as well as the average annual cost for care of a unit (maintenance, transportation and storage).

Barbara suggested we send our minutes to the Selectboard so they can be acknowledged in the Selectboard's minutes. Barbara said she would draft something to consider for the school to put into Paw Prints in January.

The committee discussed the planning yet to be done including clarification of the state's five year plan requirement for matching funds, as well as the committee's plan for creation and operation of a Milfoil Control Program funded by a dedicated town reserve fund. The committee's plan will include the component needed for herbicide treatments, spot treatments by divers, weed watchers, lake hosts and eventually may include efforts to curb the contribution to the milfoil food source from a variety of food source vectors such as failed septic systems, poor fertilization choices on adjacent land, etc. Educating residents on the problem, its impacts and known control measures was also discussed as a key to the effort's success. Members discussed the following potential meeting dates:

2010 Committee Meeting Dates

January: Mon.4th, Mon. 11th, Tue. 19th
February: Mon. 1st, Wed. 17th, Mon. 22nd
March: Tue. 16th

Voting is on March 9th, Tue.

Town Meeting is March 13th, Sat.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Joanne M. Farnham

Joanne M. Farnham, Secretary