

NAME OF BOARD/COMM: Surface Water Quality Committee

FILED BY: Bob Goldsmith, Co-chairman

DATE OF MEETING: Tuesday, June 10, 2014

TIME OF MEETING: 7:30 PM

PLACE OF MEETING: Wayland Town Building

ATTENDING: Toni Moores (co-chair) participated by phone due to distance, Bob Goldsmith, Lin Bradford, and Mike Lowery

MINUTES

1. The meeting came to order at 7:30 PM.
2. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by roll call vote, 5-0.
3. Public Comments. None
4. Dudley Pond (Mike and Toni reporting).
 - a. Diver surveys have shown very little milfoil, with about 150 plants found and pulled. But abundant filamentous algae has appeared. In two weeks, 240 gallons of "wet glop" have been collected. The amount of algae observed is decreasing.
 - b. Mike will contact Lycott and ACT to see if this is a general pattern in the area. A response received post-meeting from Marc Ballaud is attached at the end of minutes.
 - c. Mansion Beach has one sample with a high level of E. Coli. The counts decreased rapidly over the course of the next two days. The high count followed a heavy rain and is likely due to contaminated stormwater runoff.
 - d. Mike has prepared a draft 2014 annual report for ConCom and has circulated it for review.
5. Heard Pond. No report
6. Lake Cochituate.
 - a. DCR has applied Diquat for milfoil control in portions of South and Middle Ponds and Snake Brook. DCR's survey showed abundant milfoil in these areas.
 - b. Lin's survey of North Pond showed very little milfoil, mainly in the area of the Town Beach.
 - c. Lin's cleaning of the fragment capture net at the entrance of North Pond has yielded only modest amounts of milfoil
7. Invoices were approved by roll call vote, 5-0 for: Genna Cuitta for \$330; Allison LaClaire for \$780; Jesse Vogel for \$41.25; Andy Freedman for \$356.25; and Lee Junkin for \$225. This was for work for milfoil surveys and algae skimming and removal.
8. Adjourned by roll call vote of 5-0 at about 8:15.

Email text from Marc Ballaud:

This has appeared to be an unusually good year for algae growth, both microscopic and filamentous. Answers to your specific questions are below:

1. Yes, algae growth has been strong in other lakes and ponds in the region. Filamentous seems to be common.
2. While I'm sure causes vary somewhat, I wouldn't be surprised if the long winter and late ice out resulted in more decomposition of other plants and organic debris. Plant growth may also have been delayed, giving algae an advantage.
3. Filamentous algae, especially the type you described, is usually green algae (Chlorophyta) which is not associated with algal toxins. I don't think testing is needed, but if you want to overnight us some wrapped in wet paper towels in a Ziploc bag, we will look under the microscope and try to identify the algal type.
4. Agree with your observations
5. I think the algae should cycle-out. Some of the lakes that had microscopic blooms early are already clearing. Where we heard about issues with algae throughout the region, I think it is probably more of an anomaly than a new concern, but you should certainly continue monitoring water quality conditions.