

Conservation Commission

Milfoil Committee Minutes

For Wednesday, August 24, 2016 @ 8:30 AM @ the Moultonborough Town Hall

Members Present: Chairman Karin Nelson, Al Hoch, Ginny Gassman, Amy Lindamood, Bev Nelson, Tracy Waterman, Scott Bartlett, Dave Joyce

Others Present: Walter Johnson, Bob Clark

Members Absent: Paul Ardito

The meeting began at 8:33 AM.

- Minutes: Amy moved to approve the minutes as amended below, seconded by Al and approved unanimously.

The answer to the question about why the state required so many water tests last year was discussed in the last meeting: If you are treating with herbicide and it's not within an abutting 1200 feet area of another treatment area, they have to test as a separate area. The herbicide absorption into the plant and into the water is slowed down in colder water, so this could require more tests because it takes longer to become diluted into the water.

- Finances- Karin:

So far we are under budget. The herbicide column will be under budget.

- Herbicide treatment done: Plants are dead or dying from the August herbicide treatment. There was only one call about the treatment. The posters and notifications that people get are the maximum for any activity related to the treatment (drinking, irrigating). The swimming ban is only within 200 feet of the treatment. Also, the loon that was sitting on the nest was not in the area when the treatment occurred.
- Sampling: We don't have the results of the water sampling yet. The committee had been planning to help but there were scheduling conflicts. Yesterday Karin and Bev completed the sampling near the Agnars.
- Fall treatment needed: Al advised Amy Smagula (DES) of four places that he thinks require fall herbicide treatment. Goodwin Island Cove, Near Whaleback shoals, Balmoral Canal, Near Guay Island. This is about 7 acres. Historically Amy will add more after her survey. The date of treatment is late enough that we don't have to avoid the steamboats. Solitude can launch at States Landing. Karin is going to try to make sure sampling is not going to have to be done on the weekend. The treatment will be mid-September.

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Ginny made a motion to approve the planned September herbicide treatment, seconded by Scott and approved unanimously.

- On-going DASH vendor comparison:

Dave Joyce dove at three locations – He did not know which vendors worked in any area.

Spot 1: (near Birch Hill Island) In his “before” dive, he could not say exactly how bad it was, but in his “after” dive he saw spots that had been cleared with defined edges where there were big plants. Depth was 12-14 ft.

Spot 2: Suissevale: In his “after” dive he saw very few plants.

Spot 3: Whaleback: In his “after” dive he saw that it had been significantly cleared where there had been a lot. Individual very small plants were left compared to groups of 4ft plumes with big plants. Scott, Al and Karin also went out to look at the areas.

Spot 4: Al checked in “The Basin” which was pretty much cleaned out with a few small plants that could be seen.

Spot 5: Spring Island, in the middle of lots of tall pond weed, two plants were found.

Spot 6: Near Ganzy: Found 5-6 small plants.

Spot 7: Suissevale cove: Found lots of medium-sized plants.

Spot 8: Cozy/ Shady/ Lincoln: sizable plants remaining, easily seen from the boat.

Spot 9: Castle Shore near Susan Connelly. The hand pickers reported that they found more out deeper, medium and small, but there were till plants in that area.

- DASH plan going forward- Al

Al plans to clean up the test areas. He will survey a few areas that may not have been pulled. (There is a cost to going back to clean up.)

Some work to be done in Green’s Basin Area, Harilla area, Wyman area (near Ginny).

Al is not clear on whether we will have time and money to do everything that has been found.

- Cyanobacteria

Bob Clark made a comment that if he were a diver he would not want to go into areas where the water is stagnant because of the possibility of cyanobacteria which has been

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linked with Lou Gehrig's disease. This year could be a bad year because of the warm water and the low water levels. Bev reported that Lee's Pond is in the second year of national testing for the percent of cyanobacteria in the pond. The DES posts the areas that are risky, including notable blooms.

Al passed out a handout about cyanobacteria.

There was a long discussion about fertilizing, septic systems and getting phosphorus levels lower in the lake. There is a joint project with the conservation commission and the planning board. Also a suggestion was made to have a joint meeting with the conservation commission to discuss a mailing to landscapers to ask that they don't blow leaves and yard waste into the lake.

- Alternate parking for DASH boat(s) and Milfoil trailer during Steamboat time, 9/8 - 9/19 will be at States Landing.

- Next meeting is Tuesday Sept 27 at 8:30.

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.

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

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

A62: Homework for everyone is to email Ginny about any boat launch we know of and any rangeways. We will try to ask the state to provide us with a list of the private launches. Ginny to look. (Scott, Al) Further discussion...we have a GIS list.

A63: Teresa Eichhorn is compiling a list of Lake Associations

A65: Amy is to put together a "how-to-use" card for "My GPS Coordinates Pro". The weed watcher will need to indicate what level of milfoil density they are seeing.