

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
August 25, 2011
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Jonathan and Nancy Downing, Paul Richardson, Ted Carl, Bill Mannion, Nancy Merrill, Brian A. Fortier and Joe Catudal.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: John Jude and Rob Nute from Aqua-Logic; Pam Martin from Lake Host

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chairman J. Downing.

Approval of Minutes 8/11/11

T. Carl made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 11, 2011 as presented with two changes under attendance; motion was seconded by J. Catudal and passed.

Old Business

A. Request D.E.S. to provide an updated 5 Year Plan then budget for 2012-2017-

J. Downing reported that he contacted Amy at D.E.S. and in the fall she will prepare a five year Milfoil Treatment Plan. The Committee discussed budget requests and noted they would like to apply for the D.E.S. grant and would recommend submitting a Warrant Article to the Board of Selectmen for the Town's Budget of 2012. The Committee discussed what surrounding towns have done to secure funds and noted that Alton has received donations, grants and Town budgeted funds through the general budget and Warrant Articles.

B. Other-

P. Richardson suggested that the Committee recommend to the Board of Selectmen appropriating \$20,000 per year through a Warrant Article that is presented to the Alton citizens for a vote. This figure is based on the knowledge that we know the milfoil treatment is a continual expense- to treat and to maintain; and funds need to be available to get the work done and control the spread of milfoil. The Committee has been working hard to control the milfoil through plans and projects and the Townspeople should support the continued work.

New Business

A. Report of Sub-Committee for DASH Bid-

T. Carl reported the Sub-Committee met and reviewed the received bids in detail. The Sub-Committee unanimously voted to recommend AB Aquatics from Atkinson, NH for this particular job considering their qualifications and the scope of work involved in the project. The Sub-Committee noted that grant funds in the amount of 30% of the project cost may be available from D.E.S. for the milfoil treatment project. It was noted AB Aquatics was the low bidder. The Sub-Committee recommended treating from Griffin's Bridge to the Dam and only treating the main channel- approximately a 20' strip down the middle. Currently when boats drive through the

channel they are chopping up the milfoil into segments and the milfoil is going into the Lake. The Sub-Committee noted the recommendation for treatment would need to be approved by D.E.S. In summary, the Sub-Committee recommended awarding the bid to AB Aquatics and treating the milfoil areas with the DASH unit in the areas recommended by D.E.S. The chairman provided background on the 2010 project and noted the Town wells as a concern for future chemical treatment in the Merrymeeting River. P. Richardson made a motion to accept the Sub-Committee's recommendation for the treatment plan; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. K. Troendle will prepare a written recommendation from the Milfoil Committee to the Board of Selectmen; the Committee would like to request the bid item be placed on the next Selectmen's Meeting Agenda.

B. Chairman- P. Richardson made a motion to nominate Ted Carl for Milfoil Committee chairman; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

C. Volunteers Needs for DASH Project- The Committee discussed the importance of supervising the DASH project and the work of the contractor. J. Downing will coordinate the over-seeing of the project and asked members to observe the project as it's in progress. Volunteers include: T. Carl, Chris Murphy, B. Mannion, J. Catudal and J.&N. Downing.

D. Other- J. Downing noted a way to generate revenue is to charge a boat launching fee like Meredith does to non-residents. The funds collected pay for the staff to operate and could be used for other purposes. It was noted that Land Water Conservation Funds may have been used in the construction of the Town Boat Ramp so charging a user fee may not be an option at that facility. J. Jude and R. Nute from Aqua-logic stated they were present to answer any questions about the DASH process and to sit in on the meeting. They noted the importance of doing the project correctly and allowing for the native plants to come back for the ecosystem.

E. Next Meeting- The Committee will meet on September 22 at 4:00pm at Town Hall to discuss the 2012 milfoil budget request. P. Richardson made a recommendation that the Committee recommend \$20,000 for 2012 in a warrant article. P. Richardson stated it's a good time to let the public know what the Committee has done and to keep the public informed about the status of the milfoil and the need for future funding to manage the ongoing problem.

Adjournment

P. Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm; motion was seconded by J. Catudal and passed. The next meeting will be September 22, 2011 at 4:00pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kellie Troendle, Certified Park and Recreation Professional-Parks and Recreation Director