

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
September 22, 2016
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Ted Carl, Phil Wittmann, Jonathan and Nancy Downing, Sally Ferbert, and Bill Mannion

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Greg Barsanti

Call to Order

Chairman, Ted Carl called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of Minutes 7/7/2016

K. Troendle noted the spelling of Sally Ferbert's last name was corrected. B. Mannion made a motion to approve the Minutes of July 7, 2016 as corrected; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

Old Business

DASH Work Report and Cost: J. Downing noted corrections in the report. It is Rand Cove not Round Cove and it is Merrymeeting River not Wentworth Pond, and across from Merrymeeting River it is Mill Pond. The Committee discussed notifying Goggle Earth with the correct information. DASH cost for 2016 was \$27,408.00. Report was positive for cleanup of milfoil. The channel is open with a few fragments. The top of the dam head was reported to be the most amount/volume of milfoil collected at one place in the history of DASH. There were 24 days of DASH compared to 20 days in 2015. At least 80% of the DASH was in the MMR.

Herbicide Treatment: Herbicide cost for 2016 was \$10,849.00. The Committee noted the fee structure/billing was different than in 2015 and discussed the new ownership of the business. The Committee will check the contract and fee charges. J. Downing reported that the Water Commissioners may be willing to see the Town herbicide the area if it is ok with DES, with the plan to treat one area and have that well off line, then switch to another area with that well off line. (Jones Well off line, Levey Park on line). The Committee discussed options and the timing of the herbicide treatment. T. Carl will contact A. Smagula and consult with her on the best way to approach the treatment within the well radius. The Committee was interested in contracting the treatment through herbicide rather than DASH, due to the cost savings to the Town.

New Business

Budget update/2017 Warrant Article : The Committee discussed the milfoil treatment expenses to date totaling \$38,257.00. DES will reimburse the Town up to \$16,874.00 based on the low bidder; if the Town doesn't use the maximum allowable for 2-4D the funds can be used for DASH. T. Carl

estimates the DES reimbursement to be between \$12,000-\$16,000. The Committee discussed the 2017 Warrant Article request and funds needed to complete the expected work. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend a Warrant Article for \$21,000.00 for 2017 for the treatment of milfoil. The Committee discussed variables including the unknown amount of matching funds from DES in 2017, and the price increase of DASH. N. Downing made a motion to recommend \$21,000.00 for the Milfoil Treatment Warrant Article; motion was seconded by B. Mannion and passed.

Lake Host Update: B. Mannion reported that the Town received a grant for \$1,500.00 and \$820.00 has been spent so far. There is \$680.00 remaining that is not going to be spent within the next two weeks. B. Mannion reported that it was challenging finding a second Lake Host staff person and that is the reason for the surplus of funds. The Committee discussed applying for the Lake Host Grant in 2017. It was noted the Town pays \$300.00 to the NH Lakes Association to be eligible for the grant. Volunteer in-kind services must match the \$1,500.00 received from the grant. B. Mannion's in-kind service donation has totaled \$1,314.00 to date. B. Mannion stated that a new Lake Host Point Person will be needed for 2017. The Committee discussed having the Point Person be the same person as the paid Lake Host staff person, and increasing their wage for the additional work. B. Mannion will contact the current Lake Host staff person about the Point Person position. The Committee discussed a possible conflict and the various options for dealing with the conflict.

Gilman Pond: B. Mannion discussed the statement made by Fish and Game about milfoil at Gilman Pond. B. Mannion has not seen milfoil at Gilman Pond and according to the location of where the milfoil is, it is not normally grown in those conditions. B. Mannion suggested that the Committee contact A. Smagula in regard to sending a certified diver to look at the bottom of Gilman Pond, and if there is milfoil there, to begin plans for treatment so it is not infested at a future date. T. Carl will ask A. Smagula about checking Gilman Pond for milfoil.

Process Update: T. Carl sent a copy of the process update to Committee members in regard to the time frame of Committee items to be completed.

Milfoil Survey/Areas: J. and N. Downing reported that Barn Door Island is clean. Woodman's Cove is clean. There is new milfoil growth on the East Side of Alton Bay past the bandstand, where the new boat house is being built. The area around the Bandstand is clean. There is new growth in Minge Cove. The Committee said the 2016 treatments were successful and milfoil is under control in Lake Winnepesaukee and in the MMR.

Half Moon Lake: B. Mannion provided information on the weed watcher program at Half Moon Lake and the benefits of the program. B. Mannion stated that Barnstead has certified divers that can legally pull and harvest milfoil, and the divers are important in stopping the spread of milfoil. B. Mannion noted that an active weed watcher program is needed for Alton, more people to help/watch in addition to the work the Committee members are already doing.

Other: B. Mannion offered to write a milfoil article for the Baysider.

Other: The Town applied for the 2017 DES Milfoil Grant.

Other: J. Downing made a motion to recommend the appointment of Greg Barsanti to the Milfoil Committee; motion was seconded by B. Mannion and passed. G. Barsanti will complete the Application Form and will submit the form to the Board of Selectmen.

Next meeting date- The next Milfoil Committee meeting will be at the call of the chairman.

Adjournment

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:15pm; motion was seconded by S. Ferbert and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED