

**Minutes  
Alton Milfoil Committee  
May 17, 2012  
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

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

Guests: Amy Smagula, DES Biologist and Jon Conboy, Water Commissioner

Staff Present: Bill Curtin, Water Superintendent and Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

***Call to Order***

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chairman Ted Carl.

***Approval of Minutes 11/3/11***

J. Downing made a motion to accept the Minutes of November 3, 2011 as presented; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

***Old Business***

**A. Status Summary-** The Committee reported the status of the Milfoil business to date. The Town Warrant was approved by the voters for \$20,000. The Town received a grant from DES for up to 50% of the combined treatment cost, which is up from the 30% that was awarded in 2011. It was noted that the increase in boater registration fees allowed for a matching 50% for each community. \$7.50 from each boat registration is designated into the Milfoil Fund for staff, control, and grant funding.

**B. Lake Host Program-** P. Richardson gave an overview of the Lake Host Program. The NH Lakes- Lake Host Program is an educational program that informs boaters and the public about milfoil. The Town was awarded a grant for \$750. The Program funds a boat ramp attendant for \$10 an hour for up to 75 hours. The staff person will work on Saturdays and Sundays at the Town Public Boat Launch. P. Richardson noted that the program is good at informing non-boaters too.

**C. Milfoil Contracts Signed-** T. Carl stated the Board of Selectmen signed the contracts for the milfoil treatment for both the DASH and chemical treatments. The DASH contract was awarded to AB Aquatics-Bob Patterson for \$16,500 for 20 days; \$8,500 for 10 days and/or \$1,200 per day; the DES grant will cover up to \$8,375. The chemical treatment was awarded to Aquatic Control Technology for \$17,595; the DES grant will cover up to \$8,797.50.

**D. 2011 DASH Activity Report-** A. Smagula confirmed that Bob Patterson submitted a written report in regard to the completed work he did with the DASH unit in the fall of 2011. A. Smagula will send the report to the Committee. A. Smagula stated that 12,020 gallons of milfoil was removed with 31 hours of dive time.

## *New Business*

**A. 2012 Milfoil Treatment Schedule-** A. Smagula said a spring survey is needed before determining the DASH and chemical treatment locations. She will complete the survey early to mid June. A. Smagula said it is best to treat chemically in June or September- the flows need to be low so the chemical is not diluted. For the chemical treatment the Town is waiting on the survey and the permit from DES which listed the treatment date for the third or last week of June. A. Smagula said she will need to survey two weeks before the scheduled treatment date. It was noted the river is an issue because of the Town wells. The Committee discussed the importance of progress being made and residents seeing results. The Committee discussed installing a fragment barrier in the river, it would need to be effective and not interfere with boat traffic.

**B. Water Department Concerns-** B. Curtin from the Water Department stated the contamination of the Town's drinking water is the biggest concern of the Water Department. Mr. Curtin said Levey Park was shut down the last time there was a chemical treatment and when the well was tested there was a hit for antimony in the water, which he stated is like arsenic. There was no confirmation if the antimony was a result of the flushing of the well or was from the treatment of the river with 2 4D but he said they never had antimony in the water before. Mr. Curtin noted that Levey Park is still shut down because of a broken valve. A. Smagula said 2 4D does not contain antimony and she will research the antimony element to get more information for the group.

Jones Field well is on line, the Levey Park well is off line and the well by the Water Department has been discontinued and probably would not be able to handle the current water use load. Mr. Curtin said it takes \$2 million dollars to make a new well and a 14 acre parcel. Mr. Curtin said if there was a hit in a well then it is junk and that is a large risk to take. He stated that shutting the well down and flushing it may trigger something else and the Town would be in trouble if one well goes. Mr. Curtin said DES would not confirm or deny if the 2 4D chemical was harmful. Mr. Curtin said the Water Department has to wait 21 days after treatment to get the well tested. It was stated that the chemical treatment has to be at least 1200 feet away from the radius of the well. It was noted that there were no hits of 2 4D in the Town well after the milfoil chemical treatment.

The Committee noted that they want to make sure that what the treatments were in the past didn't cause an issue with the well. N. Downing stated that no one wants to disrupt or jeopardize the drinking water. The Committee discussed other options including dredging; Bio-Control-Michigan Beetle, worm; hand pulling; mats; making a boat channel using DASH; marking the boat channel with signs and buoys to help keep people in the channel; and net barriers. A. Smagula stated she has considered all options and the only effective treatment in the river is the herbicide.

The Committee noted that they can address the milfoil treatment in the river in the future when technology improves and in the meantime the Committee can try the mats; net barrier; and establishing of a boat channel with signage and buoys. The Committee said they would like to treat what they can with the chemical outside of the River and what is left over will be addressed with the DASH procedure.

**C. DES Survey-** A. Smagula said she will be surveying the lake areas for milfoil after June 4 and will send out maps of the areas for Committee members to review and provide feedback.

***D. Committee Summary-*** P. Richardson will communicate with Bob Patterson regarding the work to do and the dates. A. Smagula will provide Bob Patterson with the GPS points. The Committee discussed treating the milfoil with chemicals north of the bridge and doing DASH, bottom mats and barrier nets south of the bridge. J. Downing will work on the mats for the river. A. Smagula will email the dates for the treatment. It was stated there is a one day restriction for swimming after the chemical treatment.

***Adjournment***

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05pm; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. The next meeting will be June 7, 2012 at 4:00pm.

*Respectfully submitted,*

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

APPROVED