

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
July 9, 2009
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Jon and Nancy Downing, Joe Catudal, Peter Bolster, Paul Richardson and Fran Bonfanti.

Staff Present: Russell Bailey, Town Administrator and Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Charlie Shields

Call To Order

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

Approval of Minutes

P. Richardson made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 18, 2009 as read; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

Appointment

Amy Smagula, Clean Lakes and Exotic Species Coordinator, Department of Environmental Services-

The Committee met with Amy Smagula from DES and asked Mrs. Smagula to assist the Committee by providing information about milfoil and its removal from the Town water bodies. Mrs. Smagula recommended that the Committee first determine the presence of milfoil and get a handle on the amount and the locations. The Committee would need to start treatment at the most logical place which in the case of Lake Winnepesaukee may be the river system. The whole system would need to be dealt with so fragments are not continually coming in to the lake.

Mrs. Smagula said DES will help as much as they can. The Committee stated they are already looking to identify locations by presence/absence and plot those areas on a map of the Town. J. Catudal suggested that the Committee learn what the exotic milfoil looks like so the dots on the map are accurate and not the native milfoil. DES would be able to provide a more thorough mapping of the areas through GPS by using the Committee's map as a guide.

Grant funding was discussed to include: (1) Prevention- Lake Host- prevent new invasive plants from coming in and prevent milfoil from leaving in an effort to save other lakes, Signage- provides information about exotic plants; (2) Early Detection- Weed Watcher- May-September with surveys once a month and (3) Control- based on size and distribution. The Committee discussed ways the local marinas could help provide information about milfoil to boaters. There is a matching grant through the NH Lakes Association- Andrea at 226-0299 which is advertised in February and due in March for the Lake Host Program.

The Committee discussed signage at the boat launches to indicate if the water body is milfoil free or milfoil is present. The Committee discussed checking the launch at Hills Pond and Sunset Lake for signage. The Committee discussed the milfoil coming in from the Merrymeeting River in New Durham and other areas where it has been identified from the river to Lake Winnepesaukee. It was noted that the Committee should identify the priorities, work upstream and down in the river, evaluate the river in between and prevent the fragments from moving; DES has plastic netting that can be installed to help trap the fragments. The Committee stated there is a major problem from the Alton Bay Water Bandstand to the Power Dam in the River. The Committee said 2 areas for treatment could be identified as the river to the dam and the dam to the bandstand. DES will help with the milfoil identification and map plotting. They will determine the milfoil coordinates through GPS/GIS, provide a map and the map would be sent out to bid for the proper treatment. The mapping for treatments is done in August by DES and the information and map will help prepare for the budget due the end of September.

The Committee discussed the herbicide treatment; it is non toxic to humans if used appropriately. Cost is \$350-\$450 per acre plus the contractor's labor. There are some restrictions for water use after treatment but those are posted and abutters within 1200' are notified through certified letters.

DES will start surveying the water bodies with good weather, maps will be worked on July and August and bids will go out in September. It takes 90 days to get a permit to treat milfoil. The cost could be reduced by the Committee doing the certified mailings. The Committee discussed issuing another press release with a photo of exotic milfoil and to ask people to call if they see milfoil so it can be logged on the map. A. Smagula said that people should not get rid of and remove the good milfoil or good plants because when the good plants are removed it makes more room for the unwelcome, invasive milfoil plants to grow and the invasives like disruption. DES would be able to do small jobs to help with the milfoil by providing bottom barriers and diving in small areas.

Meeting Date- The Committee will meet at 2:00pm at Downing's Landing on July 28 for a milfoil, educational tour with Committee members and DES.

The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, August 13, 2009 at 4:00pm at the Alton Town Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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