

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
October 6, 2011
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Ted Carl, Jonathan and Nancy Downing, Paul Richardson, Nancy Merrill, and Peter Bolster.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Bob Patterson, AB Aquatics and Amy Smagula, DES.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm by Chairman T. Carl. It was noted Brian Fortier was appointed to the Committee by the Board of Selectmen and will need to be sworn in at the Town Clerk's office.

Approval of Minutes 8/25/11

J. Downing made a motion to accept the Minutes of August 25, 2011 as presented; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

Old Business

A. Report by Bob Patterson/AB Aquatics-

B. Patterson (AB) said his main priority is to dive and get rid of the milfoil and in the winter provide the paperwork for his results. There were 700 GPS points that identified milfoil; 200 in the Lake and 500 in the River; point dimensions vary in size from small to large. Up to 25' were covered from the point in large areas. B. Patterson reported Alton Bay is mostly completed- 90% but he did not get past Harmony Park because of the construction and silt. He said milfoil is present that was not on the map. AB went approximately 60' beyond the waypoint at the Town Beach. The West Side was accurate and extended where the pier is another 120' toward the swim dock. Some areas are not noticeable from the surface. The area around the Water Bandstand has milfoil and it was not identified in 2011 or on the plot. B. Patterson said he will look at it to determine approximate size. The River current had been too fast to remove milfoil and will be started (5 days of work) with better conditions. Rand Cove will be one-half day to complete. Woodman's Cove- Is cleaned up. Milfoil was to the beach. Conditions are hard for hand pulling and chemical treatment should be considered for future treatment. The Committee noted they believe in the summer milfoil was pulled by a resident in the area without training and it made the milfoil conditions worse. B. Patterson said there would be ½ acre to treat chemically; the boats should be moved out of the way and then followed up with the DASH. Parker/Gillan Marine- AB got up to the Levey Park inlet. It was noted milfoil is growing into vegetation that is moving and it's like pruning the milfoil- it keeps chopping it up. Next week AB will be close to finishing up the initial contract. The Committee noted there are funds for approximately five days of work in the River to primarily clear the way for a channel. B. Patterson said the River is a target area that needs to be treated because the wind brings the milfoil up the River toward Jones Field/Dam and the River current brings the milfoil down into the Lake/Alton Bay.

The Committee discussed that it will have been approximately 20 days of work to complete the project. 2012 project should include chemical treatment at the Town Beach and Water Bandstand.

B. Patterson said he will give a Dive Report to Amy Smagula and she will be the one to make the recommendations and decisions as to what is treatable and not treatable. B. Patterson said he gets the permit from DES and in turn provides the report to DES.

The Committee discussed the River and the option of using barriers from DES to install in the River to prevent fragments from coming down. The barriers would need to be regularly cleaned and debris removed. Variables should also be recorded: temperature, water flow/level, etc. B. Patterson said the milfoil in the River is so thick it's interconnected and he has to go through it three times to remove it. The barriers need to be staggered and put in the best places in regard to depth, navigability, and distance. They are 25' in length and can be installed by DES. J. Downing noted that there is the option of chemical treatment if the concerns with the water wells are addressed.

B. Action Items/Discussion-

J. Downing discussed action items to be completed. (1) Identify new areas to be completed this year; (2) Determine the deadlines of applications for grants and town funding requests. The Committee needs to be prepared to complete the work according to the established deadlines for funding.

P. Bolster stated the milfoil request may be better suited in the general operating budget because it is a reoccurring expense and will bring the suggestion forward to the Selectmen for consideration. The Committee noted the importance of hand pulling and chemical treatment and completing the two treatment options together for the most effective process.

The Committee discussed the Levey Park Well and the Jones Field well and options involved with the wells in order to treat the River with the chemicals because it may be the most efficient way. The Committee noted the milfoil is coming from the River and consideration should be given for chemical treatment options. The DASH/hand pulling will make a channel in 2011 for boats to pass through the River in an effort to reduce the chopping of milfoil.

5:00pm- Peter Bolster, Nancy Merrill and Bob Patterson had other meetings/commitments and had to leave the meeting.

C. Meeting with Amy Smagula-

A. Smagula said the Town of Alton was added to the list for grants and the deadline for bids is October 31, 2011. A. Smagula said she was waiting to tell us until she had the report from B. Patterson. A. Smagula stated that when preparing the bid specifications the Committee should target the number of acres with the locations to be announced in the spring with the "fresh" measurements. B. Patterson is not doing Minge/Small's Cove because it was not on the map area, there was nothing there in late July 2011. It was discussed that 85% of Minge Cove was treated successfully by the Association. P. Richardson noted that areas surveyed for milfoil appeared to have been ok until mid-August and now the milfoil is back. A. Smagula discussed doing the chemical treatment every two years. The Committee discussed Lycott offering to honor their original bid price, A. Smagula said a new bid is needed by DES for the 2012 project. A. Smagula will provide wording for the bid as chemical labels have changed and the information needs to be updated. A map will also be provided for the Committee to use in the bid process.

Dates were reviewed with the Committee about deadlines. November 30 is when a decision is made by DES regarding the grant funding. January is when the contractor needs to begin the permitting process for a spring application of chemicals.

The Committee recommended that \$20,000.00 be budgeted for 2012 treatment and that the Bid Request due October 31, 2011 include a Bid for DASH for a certain number of days per diem and a Bid for Chemical Treatment for a certain number of acres and the map can be used for both bids.

The Committee stated they voted at the last meeting to recommend \$20,000.00 be requested through the Town for treatment in 2012. The Committee noted that the Town is addressing the needs of the entire lake and not just Alton Bay and a few isolated areas. Now that milfoil is being actively identified and mapped, more milfoil locations are being discovered.

The Committee discussed the issue of the Levey Park, Jones Field and Liberty Tree Park Wells. A. Smagula will ask the Drinking and Groundwater Bureau if the zone for Jones Field is far enough to allay fears of water contamination. The other option is for the Water Department to put the Liberty Tree Park Well online. A cost analysis of treating the River with DASH services at least five times and the consequent ongoing costs involved versus putting the third well online should be conducted. J. Downing will look into the Well options.

The Committee said areas to add to the Milfoil Map include: West Alton, Minge Cove, Woodland's Cove and Barndoor Island. A. Smagula said grants will be 30%-40% for 2012 depending on projects awarded. It was stated the milfoil in Alton is a compounding problem because of not getting all of the milfoil in the River because of the Water Well. P. Richardson will inform P. Bolster that the Committee is recommending \$20,000.00 for the 2012 milfoil treatment and K. Troendle will brief the Town Administrator of the same.

New Business

Baysider Article-

P. Richardson offered to draft a follow-up article stating what happened and was discovered during the DASH treatment.

Adjournment

Next Meeting- T. Carl will be unavailable starting October 15 for meetings. The Committee will meet on call to review the bids and make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen. T. Carl will author the Committee Report for the Town of Alton Annual Report.

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15pm; motion was seconded by P. Richardson and passed. The next meeting will be announced at a future date.

Respectfully submitted,

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