

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
November 29, 2012
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

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

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Call to Order

P. Richardson, sitting in as the chairman for Ted Carl, called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Approval of Minutes 10/11/12

J. Downing made a motion to accept the Minutes of October 11, 2012 as presented; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

Old Business

- A. 11/14/12 BOS Meeting Summary-** The Milfoil Committee reviewed a draft copy of the meeting summary that was written by Paul Richardson. The meeting summary is a synopsis of the meeting with the BOS, Water Commissioners, DES and Milfoil Committee whose purpose was to discuss options for milfoil treatment of the MMR. The Committee voted to include a copy of the Meeting Summary with this set of Minutes.

The Committee discussed their perception of the Meeting with the BOS and noted disappointment that the Water Commissioners had already voted and decided to not allow chemical treatment of the MMR before the meeting and without consideration of the presented information from DES; further the Water Commissioners and Town did not consider working together with the DES proposed plan to perform tests at the site for future data gathering. The Committee was surprised that funding of the study and treatment were suggested to be the responsibility of the state when the Town has been working together with the state to combat the mutual issue.

The Committee stated they left the BOS meeting feeling embarrassed because the reason for the meeting was to work together with all parties involved to discuss possible solutions; the discussion was lead with fear of well contamination without exploring or considering the alternatives. The Committee noted that herbicide was already used in the MMR and no negative consequences materialized. The Committee noted that DES had permitted the treatment of the MMR is 2010 when the Levey Park well was off line and that option could be explored in the future. DES was not able to give a 100% guarantee that there would be no contamination of the well water from 2-4D. Thus, the reason for the proposed tests.

The Committee commented that the front page Baysider Article reporting on the BOS Meeting was negative and placed the chemical treatment of the MMR in an unfavorable light. The

Committee was concerned that the voters would be fearful of the chemical treatment as an option and therefore not vote to fund the warrant article for milfoil.

The Committee noted the state was invited to the meeting by the BOS. The DES professional staff prepared a proposal as a compromise to work with the Town and the Committee's perception was the Town already decided they didn't want to treat with the chemical nor did they want to pay for the testing.

P. Richardson said A. Smagula will investigate treating the water area around Parker Marine with 2-4D as an option through the permitting process. A. Smagula will see if the location is outside the well radius. It was noted the area around Parker Marine is muck and heavy vegetation and 2-4D is unlikely to penetrate into the ground through muck/vegetation.

B. Harvesting Report- The Committee reviewed the DASH Contractor Harvesting Report which summarizes the 2012 contractor work. It was noted on page 2 of the report the issue of Parker Marine and the recommendation by the DASH Contractor to treat Parker Marine chemically. Harvesting Report is included in this set of Minutes.

C. NH Lakes Program Grant Summary- The Committee reviewed the 2012 NH Lakes Summary for the Town of Alton. The Committee recommended including the Summary in the Minutes of this meeting and further agreed to participate in 2013.

D. Downings Landing- J. Downing reported that Downings Landing was purchased by the NH Fish and Game Department for public use. The Committee suggested that the regional staff people from Fish & Game should be advised regarding the issue of milfoil in proximity to the property. The Committee noted that the boat ramp at the landing could be stenciled too to inform the boaters about checking their boats for milfoil.

New Business

A. Budget Request for 2013- The Committee discussed the cost of the chemical follow-up in the Lake and DASH treatment in the MMR. It was stated that the entire MMR would cost \$80-\$100k to DASH. After much discussion it was agreed to chunk the MMR into sections and address the Parker Marine area first. \$30,000.00 was a good number based on the cost estimates/bids received. The Committee noted signage and buoys would need to be purchased for 2013 to install in the river to mark the channel and to ask people to stay in the boat channel. J. Downing made a motion to purchase signage warning boaters to stay in the boat channel in the MMR; motion was seconded by J. Catudal and passed. The Committee noted approximately \$4000 should be left in the milfoil budget at the end of 2012. J. Downing made a motion to recommend \$27,500 for the 2013 Warrant Article to treat milfoil; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

B. Bids for Milfoil- The Committee reviewed the bids for DASH and 2-4D. J. Downing made a motion to recommend awarding the chemical treatment bid to Aquatic Control in accordance with their proposal for three years. Motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. J. Downing made a motion to recommend awarding the bid for DASH to AB Aquatic as outlined in their proposal; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. Recommendations were based on pass performance, technical explanation in the bid, price and professional quality. The Committee recommended that a note be sent to the Town

Administrator with the Committee's recommendations and request to inform the bidders of the BOS decision and to get the contracts signed and ready to go for 2013.

C. Committee Concerns: The Committee discussed concerns they would like addressed with the Town Administrator including: the Baysider Article and the negative portrayal of the chemical treatment of milfoil. The Committee is interested in submitting an article to the Baysider with additional, relevant information that was not reported in the BOS Meeting story and wanted feedback from the Town Administrator on how to proceed. The Committee would like to keep the flow of information going to the public so they are informed about the consequences of milfoil if not treated. The Committee noted concerns if milfoil were not successfully addressed in the river e.g.: continued infiltration of milfoil into the lake and reduction of water flow which environmentally impacts the river since it is unable to self clean.

D. BOS Presentation 10/17/12: The Committee complimented and thanked P. Richardson on preparing and delivering an excellent presentation to the BOS and suggested the presentation be on the Town Web Site. B. Mannion made a motion to place the presentation on the Town Web Site; motion was seconded by N. Merrill and passed.

Adjournment

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:25pm; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. The next meeting will be held April 25, 2013 at 4:00pm at Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

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