

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
June 8, 2017
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Ted Carl, Greg Barsanti, Pam Martin, Sally Ferbert, and Bill Mannion

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Jonathan and Nancy Downing

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes 9/21/2016

B. Mannion made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 21, 2016 as presented; motion was seconded by G. Barsanti and passed.

Old Business

Year to Date Financial Update: T. Carl presented a financial update. The DES grant is for \$12,656.00. Monies not used for herbicide treatment can be applied toward DASH treatment. The Town approved \$21,000.00 for milfoil treatment through a warrant article. There is \$33,656.00 (grant plus warrant article) plus the balance of the account (\$14,971.33) to use for milfoil treatment.

Five Year Long Term Plan Booklet: Amy Smagula completed the 2017 Town of Alton Milfoil Committee Five Year Plan, and submitted the plan to the Committee. The Town Hall compiled the plan into booklets, and they were distributed to the Board of Selectmen, Milfoil Committee members, and there is a browsing copy at Town Hall for the public. The Five Year Plan shows the history of milfoil treatment, including the treatment locations in Alton, and also shows future, running plans until 2022. The Five Year Plan has maps and pictures for information.

New Business

Lake Host Update: B. Mannion reported that the Town received a grant for \$3,250.00 for the Lake Host program, and staff are needed to run the program. The Committee discussed the great success of the Lake Host Program. It was noted that milfoil awareness has increased, and most boaters in 2017 are familiar with milfoil as opposed to boaters in 2011 when many people did not know about milfoil. The Committee noted that because of the milfoil treatments in Alton, there is significantly less milfoil washing up on the shores of Alton Bay. There were 357 boats inspected in 2016, and nothing was actually found on boats/trailers and mailed for analysis. The Committee discussed the Lake Host staff challenges and needs, including having adult staff and them being available to work on weekends. B. Mannion volunteered to be the Point Person but a Lake Host manager and Lake Host staff members are needed. The Committee discussed the option of having a self-evaluation station at the boat ramp, where educational materials/pictures/pamphlets can be left and displayed, and a drop box located for boaters to drop invasive species samples can be deposited for

analysis/mailing to DES. B. Mannion will contact NH Lakes and ask if grant money can be used for self-evaluation stations, and he will bring the information back to the Committee for discussion at the next meeting. The Committee stated the Lake Host program can be restarted if a need arises for additional invasive species education. The consensus of the Committee was that the educational awareness goals have been achieved.

2017 Survey of Alton Waters: T. Carl reported that Amy Smagula will be conducting a survey to identify milfoil locations in Alton within the next few days. The milfoil treatment contractors need the survey/GPS coordinates so they know where to apply chemicals and DASH.

Solitude Lake Management Target Date: The tentative date for the herbicide treatment is Sunday, June 25. K. Troendle noted weekend use of Town beaches would be affected and the summer camp program begins on Monday, June 26, and swimming is a main activity in the program. T. Carl will contact Solitude to confirm the date and see if there are other date options for treatment, preferably Tuesday, June 27 weather permitting.

Weed Watcher: The Committee discussed the benefits of the weed watcher program. The Committee noted the benefit of DES providing the survey of milfoil locations with the GPS coordinates. N. Downing noted this was an unseasonable spring to get out and check for milfoil.

New Durham Merrymeeting River/Cyanobacteria: B. Mannion provided a written report of the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee meeting to the Alton Milfoil Committee. In summary, New Durham is concerned with cyanobacteria blooms in the MMR and in small ponds. New Durham is concerned with the water quality, and high content of phosphorus in water bodies. In response to the concern, a committee was formed to include representatives from New Durham and Alton. The goal of the Cyanobacteria Committee is for the MMR to be free of cyanobacteria. B. Mannion noted there is no data to determine the water quality in Alton, and baseline data is needed so we can judge when cyanobacteria is at a critical level. The Alton Conservation Commission was asked to do the water testing in Alton. B. Mannion noted New Durham hypothesizes that the fish hatchery may be a source of the high amounts of phosphorus in the water, and the levels of phosphorus can be improved by changing operations at the fish hatchery. Also, in 2016 there were a lot of elements that could have contributed to the cyanobacteria: high levels of phosphorus; hot, sunny days; and lack of rain. With these contributing factors, the water flow was probably affected. 2017 water test results may be different than 2016 because of different weather conditions. The Committee stated that Alton should test the MMR water, and get the current results- the alarmist levels will either be confirmed or not confirmed. Sally Ferbert offered to be a water tester. The Committee noted that a DES representative was not part of the New Durham Merrymeeting River/Cyanobacteria meeting, and that DES could offer important information about water quality. There was discussion on increased laws and regulations as a result of a Watershed Protection Plan, and the importance of watching out for the greater water bodies (other lakes, rivers, water). The Committee discussed the potential of expanding from the "Milfoil Committee" to the "Invasive Species Committee", and being tasked with addressing water quality in Alton water bodies. The Committee stated it is good to be informed as to what is going on.

Next meeting date- The next Milfoil Committee meeting will be Thursday, July 13, 2017 at 4:00pm at Town Hall.

Adjournment

S. Ferbert made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:07pm; motion was seconded by G. Barsanti and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED