

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
June 30, 2011
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Jonathan and Nancy Downing, Paul Richardson

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Amy Smagula (until 4:30pm), Brad Smith, Chris Murphy, Ted Carl and Bill Mannion

N. Downing made a motion to appoint J. Downing as the Committee Chair until another can be elected; motion was seconded by P. Richardson and passed. The Committee welcomed the residents of Minge Cove and Half Moon Lake and noted that in the past individual groups were addressing the milfoil issue in their area and now the Town would like to address the milfoil as a group and include the different, smaller areas in the same permit application.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:55pm by Chairman, J. Downing. J. Catudal will need to be sworn in as a member.

Approval of Minutes 12/2/10

P. Richardson made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 2, 2010 as written; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

New Business

- A. **Lycott Update-** K. Troendle reported that the Special Permit Application prepared by Lycott was delivered to the Town for review and signatures yesterday and the Town needs to sign the application and mail it to the NH Division of Pesticide Control; she stated once that is completed the Town will need to notify Lycott so they can update their records and mail the notification letters about the treatment process to the abutters. The Committee questioned if the application would meet the 90-day requirement. Amy Smagula stated that there is a 90-day requirement and she will check with the Department of Agriculture. A. Smagula stated she is not in favor of treatment after September 15 because the plants are not actively taking up the herbicide. A. Smagula said the applicator did not take care of the Town's interest and that early June is when the application permit should have been submitted. J. Downing asked if there is a possible exception to the 90-day requirement and A. Smagula said she will look into it.
- B. **Review Committee's Progress-** J. Downing reported that the Committee inventoried the water bodies in Alton and identified milfoil in areas; the areas were mapped and chemically treated in 2010. J. Downing said the Merrymeeting River was not able to receive the scheduled treatment because of the Town's gravel packed well location to the River. In 2011 the Committee identified milfoil in the following areas: Merrymeeting River; Back Bay; Downings Landing; Gillan Marine; Minge Cove; Woodlands Cove; Parker Marine and by the Bandstand.

- C. Minge Cove Information**- C. Murphy and T. Carl spoke about what the Minge Cove Association has done to remove milfoil. It was stated that Minge Cove was treated with chemicals 5-6 years ago and the plan was to treat every other year. Now in 2011- the milfoil in Minge Cove is the worst it's ever been. The treatment plan needs to be followed up because the milfoil doesn't appear to go away permanently with the treatment. The treatment helps and it looks clear but then the milfoil will appear again because of the boat traffic. Cliff Cabral was contracted to do harvesting of the milfoil. C. Cabral recommends treating the milfoil with chemicals and then following up with the divers for hand pulling/harvesting.
- D. Information**- The Committee noted that the Town of Alton does not have a harvester and would contract that work out. A. Smagula said a permit is not required for weed control divers who are certified in NH. A. Smagula said she will be conducting a survey to identify milfoil with GPS coordinates. A. Smagula said she would modify the contract to remove the chemical application and change it to suction harvesting and the Town would still be able to use the awarded grant funds for the 2011 project. The Committee thought the chemical treatment from 2010 was successful and that hand pulling would work in the small areas of Back Bay; Gillan/Downings Landing/Parker and in the River.
- E. Agreement with Lycott**- The Committee discussed their concern with Lycott's work in the permit application and the lateness of getting the application to the Town and not meeting the 90-day requirement. K. Troendle will contact Russ Bailey about the Committee's options for the project.
- F. Suction Harvesting**- N. Downing asked A. Smagula if DES could provide the Town of Alton with a revised five year plan and A. Smagula said yes. The Committee said they are interested in the suction harvesting and want to send the project out to bid. DES said they have a bid template the Town of Alton can use for putting the bid information together. The Committee discussed awarding the bid based on technical merit. A. Smagula offered to help the Committee review the bids because they may not be standardized- companies will bid different numbers of boats/divers/transportation of materials for disposal. A. Smagula said there is no time limit for suction harvesting and that it can be completed as long as the milfoil is continuing to grow; the harvesting process is guaranteed to get the root systems. The Town has budgeted \$10,000.00 for milfoil and the milfoil fund balance is \$1,324.00 for a total of \$11,324.00. A. Smagula said the chemical treatment is not guaranteed to get the root system. J. Downing noted that he contacted the Alton Water Works and asked if the well was contaminated by the chemical treatment and it was stated that the well was not contaminated. A. Smagula will be in touch with J. Downing about the permit application status for the chemical treatment and if there is a possibility the application would still be reviewed past the stated deadline. P. Richardson made a motion that the Milfoil Committee recommend harvesting milfoil in 2011 in all of the areas except for Minge Cove, in lieu of the chemical treatment, provided the Town has approval from the state and to terminate Lycott's contract for non-performance. Motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. A. Smagula will provide the bid template to the Town along with 5 contractors to send the bid to.

G. Lake Host Program- The Town received a grant for the Lake Host Program and the boat ramp is staffed eight hours per week on Saturday and Sunday. The program is educational and informative to boaters, the public and the marinas.

H. Chairman and New Members- The Committee discussed asking for representatives from the areas in Alton where there is milfoil to join the Committee to represent their areas. The current Committee members at the meeting will be able to offer help as time allows but will not be as active in the daily businesses. C. Murphy, T. Carl and B. Mannion were interested in joining the Committee. K. Troendle will get the roster of Committee members and make sure the current members know about future meeting dates.

Adjournment

P. Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:50pm; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. Future meeting date will be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED