

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
July 13, 2017
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Ted Carl, Greg Barsanti, 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 6/8/2017

B. Mannion made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2017 as presented; motion was seconded by G. Barsanti and passed.

Old Business

Financial Update: T. Carl presented a financial update with expenses to date to include: \$1,424.00 for Solitude Lake Management for permit notification and mailing fee for herbicide treatment; \$13,232.81 for 11.25 days of DASH treatment for AB Aquatics. T. Carl reported that he instructed AB Aquatics to hold the DASH work to twenty days total.

New Business

Solitude Lake Management Target Date: T. Carl reported that herbicide treatment is scheduled for July 19, 2017, and the date works out with the Town's recreation programs and event schedule. T. Carl will notify the Water Department of the expected treatment date.

AB Aquatics DASH Progress: T. Carl said that AB Aquatics completed 11.25 days of DASH treatment in the MMR and Lake Winnepesaukee (Rand Cove, Alton Bay). It was noted there is still milfoil in the MMR and a 75'x75' patch at Rand Cove that was not noticed to be included in the herbicide treatment. The top of the dam is severe, and milfoil is hanging over the edge and fragmenting off into the river below. The recommendation from DES was to have the DASH divers do the best they can with the Rand Cove patch, and address the patch next year as part of the herbicide treatment. T. Carl will contact AB Aquatics to see how much time it is expected to take to DASH the Rand Cove patch. The Committee discussed that the additional DASH work at Rand Cove will be less days of DASH in the MMR. It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend DASH for a couple of days at the top of the dam, and to complete the rest of the days of DASH on the Rand Cove patch.

New Durham Merrymeeting River/Cyanobacteria: B. Mannion provided a written report of the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee meeting to the Alton Milfoil Committee. B. Mannion noted that much of the meeting was focused on Watershed Management, its planning and funding

(about \$50,000). There was discussion of water testing in New Durham and Alton, and there are three new water testers from Alton (Nancy Downing, Sally Ferbet and Greg Barsanti). N. Downing described the water testing process for "Alton 25" the Alton site. The goal is to test once a week for cyanobacteria. The Committee suggested the following key areas to test for cyanobacteria in Alton: (1) above the dam; (2) as close to the ND border as possible; (3) River Run Deli. Testing for cyanobacteria is free through UNH. VLAP (Volunteer Lake Assessment Program) has data and the Committee can compare Alton to the state average. B. Mannion noted that DES tests thirteen locations on the lake for cyanobacteria, three times a season, and we can access those data records. The state does not test the MMR, and Alton should test the MMR. The Committee discussed the importance of establishing a base line of data for chemical analysis of the MMR. B. Mannion will contact the Alton Conservation Commission chairman, and copy the Town Administrator, to inquire about the status of the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee in Alton. It was the consensus of the Milfoil Committee that some group from Alton should be involved in being aware of, and looking for cyanobacteria in Alton. T. Carl noted that he will be presenting the report of the Milfoil Committee to the Board of Selectmen on August 21, and he can ask the Selectmen to address the mission of the Milfoil Committee, and should the mission include efforts for awareness of cyanobacteria.

J. Downing noted a geese issue in Alton Bay, and suggested Alton test for e-coli in Alton Bay. K. Troendle reported that DES performs water tests in Alton Bay swimming areas, and the reports are submitted to the Building Inspector. K. Troendle said DES contacts the Parks and Recreation office if the beaches need to be closed due to unsafe swimming conditions. The last testing date was June 28, 2017. J. Downing suggested testing again due to the geese activity. K. Troendle said she will contact the Building Inspector about getting additional tests in Alton Bay.

The Committee discussed the high levels of phosphates in Downing Pond. B. Mannion stated that 17 is a very high reading, as a comparison Half Moon Lake is less than 7. The Committee would like to know if the high levels of phosphates are drifting into the Alton side of the MMR. B. Mannion said we are not able to compare numbers prior to 2016 because there was no data collected. B. Mannion stated that the sooner we can start testing Alton's waters, the sooner we can start collecting data to compare phosphate levels. It was also noted that other variables contribute to high phosphates such as lack of water flow (drought conditions), high temperatures and sunshine. The Committee would like to know if Alton has high levels of phosphates, or if the water in Alton is being filtered by the River from the New Durham fish hatchery. J. Downing noted that the Alton wells are tested for water quality, and there should be past data to review to see if the phosphates are affecting the Town's drinking water.

Weed Watcher: B. Mannion said that a formal, active weed watcher program is needed in Alton.

DES: The Committee discussed inviting DES, Amy Smagula, to a meeting to clarify/ ask questions on some of the Milfoil Committee meeting topics from today. The Committee would like to meet before the BOS presentation on August 21. The Committee suggested a meeting date of August 3. K. Troendle stated she is unable to attend that meeting date due to a work schedule conflict, and asked if another member could take the meeting minutes.

Information Kiosk: B. Mannion contacted the Lake Host Grant organization to see if grant monies could be used to provide a self-service kiosk station with invasive species literature, pamphlets, and bags for collecting invasive species samples. The grant monies are not available for a kiosk. The Committee discussed building a kiosk with Town funds as a trial to see if that option is successful in getting the information out to the public, and collecting samples of invasive species for analysis.

Next meeting date- The next Milfoil Committee meeting will be August 3, 2017 at 4:00pm at Town Hall.

Adjournment

T. Carl made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:22pm; motion was seconded by G. Barsanti and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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

APPROVED