

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
September 10, 2009
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Jon and Nancy Downing, Joe Catudal, Paul Richardson and Peter Bolster (arrived at 4:35pm).

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director, Russell Bailey, Town Administrator (arrived 4:35pm).

Public: Tom Joseph and Ray Johnson, Amy Smagula- Department of Environmental Services (arrived at 4:20pm).

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chairman, J. Downing.

Approval of Minutes 8/13/09

J. Downing made corrections to the Minutes of August 13, 2009 as follows: under Members Present- Fran Bonfanti should be listed under members and not staff because she is a member of the Committee and not a staff representative of the Highway Department and under Adjournment- Fran Bonfanti is a Milfoil Committee member and should not be listed as the Secretary of the Highway Department. J. Catudal made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 13, 2009 as corrected; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

New Business

Milfoil Locations/Map- The Committee discussed the site visits they completed to include all ponds and water areas and determined that all of the bodies of water in Alton are free of variable milfoil except Lake Winnepesaukee which has several locations including: Small's Cove, West Alton Marina, Back Bay and Alton Bay (especially along the shore line) from the Water Bandstand to the Merrymeeting River to include the Dam area. Some ponds and water bodies do have other types of vegetation including bladderwort and native milfoil but those types of vegetation were not targeted as troublesome.

The Committee noted that they will be submitting a report with their findings and recommendations to the Board of Selectmen. The Committee received and reviewed copies of the draft Milfoil Committee Report to the Selectmen prepared by J. Downing.

The Committee stated they will be applying for matching grant funds from the State of NH to help fund the milfoil treatment plan and will also recommend that the Town appropriate funds through the 2010 Budget to address the milfoil problem in Lake Winnepesaukee. The Committee was advised that the grant proposal and milfoil treatment plan could include the identified areas in Lake Winnepesaukee as stated above and be considered one large project for bidding purposes. J. Downing

noted that some local marinas verbally indicated they would like to help contribute to the control of the milfoil infestation.

Amy Smagula, Clean Lakes and Exotic Species Coordinator, Department of Environmental Services-

Mrs. Smagula met with the Committee and confirmed the DES identified areas of milfoil as: Alton Bay, West Alton Marina, Back Bay (Rand Cove) and Small's Cove. She advised the Committee to send a letter of intention to the State of NH stating the plans of the Committee to apply for matching grant funds for the treatment of milfoil in 2010 and 2011 by September 15, 2009. K. Troendle will submit an email letter of intention as advised on Monday, September 14, 2009 to DES. After the letter of intention is submitted a Management Plan Letter is sent to the applicants later in September with the grant application. The contract process would begin in November/December.

The Town will need to bid the project because it will be over \$5,000.00. The project cost estimate is approximately: \$1,000.00 per acre x 2 (for two treatment cycles); \$25,000.00 x 2 = \$50,000.00; to be broken down as a request for \$25,000.00 for 2010 and \$25,000.00 for 2011. The Town would know by November if matching funds from the State of NH are available. If DES awards a matching grant to the Town then Town Meeting approved budgeted funds could be used for divers or suction harvesting for follow up treatment in the control of milfoil.

The Committee asked the Town Administrator to please set up a meeting with the Board of Selectmen in October so the Committee can present the Report of the Milfoil Committee to the Board of Selectmen and also discuss the matching grant application. Russ Bailey said he would be able to set up an appointment in October with the Board. Russ Bailey said the Town, if funds were approved, would only be able to commit to the funds for 2010 and not 2011 until next year. Mr. Bailey also stated that the received grant funds would need to be contingent upon the Town of Alton providing matching funds with Town Meeting approval in any contract that was sent out to bid and awarded.

Old Business

Follow-up Responses- The Committee discussed sending out emails to the residents that contacted the Committee with milfoil sightings to brief them on the Committee's findings. K. Troendle will complete this task.

Meeting Date- The next Committee meeting will be on Thursday, September 24, 2009 at 4:00pm at the Alton Town Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:53pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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