

**Minutes
Alton Milfoil Committee
October 14, 2014
Alton Town Hall, 4:00pm**

Members Present: Ted Carl, Jonathan and Nancy Downing, and Bill Mannion.

Staff Present: Kellie Troendle, Parks and Recreation Director

Public: Pam Martin, Amy Smagula- NH DES

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes 8/26/2014

J. Downing made a motion to approve the Minutes of August 26, 2014 as presented; motion was seconded by B. Mannion and passed.

Old Business

Baysider Article - B. Mannion authored an article for the Baysider Newspaper about the progress of the Milfoil Committee's work, and the status of the Alton water bodies. The Committee noted the article was informative and well written and was positive press. The Committee thanked B. Mannion for his efforts. The Baysider also featured an article a previous week on the Board of Selectmen discussing the Town's participation in the DES, Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant Program. The Committee was encouraged to see local interest and press coverage about the treatment of milfoil.

DASH Work Complete- T. Carl reported that the DASH work is complete for 2014. 26.25 days were spent performing the DASH work. There was discussion on the invoice, the Committee approved payment of \$11,162.50, for 25 days as submitted- motion was made by J. Downing and seconded by B. Mannion. The Contractor noted there was a \$1,500 discount and only billed for 25 days.

Process Document- The Committee reviewed the draft document for the formal steps/processes taken or monitored by the Milfoil Committee. Amy Smagula said September 15 is always the deadline to apply for the Control Grants. Amy Smagula said the last two weeks of September is when she sends out bid guidance by email. Bids are due October 31. Mrs. Smagula stated that December 31 is the date for DES to award matching grant funds and January 31 is the deadline to submit the Town signed documentation back to DES for the matching grant funds. The Committee discussed that the DASH staging area could be held at the Downing's property along the Merrymeeting River instead of contacting the Fish and Game Department. The Committee discussed the length of time it takes to approve the 2-4D application and it was explained it's due to the Dept. of Agriculture and their large work load. In summary, Amy said the state would need the Grant Request, the Bids, and the signed paperwork from the Town returned to DES.

Budget/ Warrant- The Committee reviewed the Milfoil Warrant Article expenses and noted that the year end balance will be approximately \$19,000. The Committee discussed the milfoil treatment success in the lake and river this year, and wanted to reflect the progress with a reduction in the request of treatment funds from the Town. The Committee discussed the limitation in treating the

river with herbicide due to objections from the Water Commissioners; the State Ground Water Department does not oppose the local Water Department. A. Smagula stated that new applications/permitting can offer new conditions. The Committee discussed the treatment of Parker Marine and was appreciative of the support of the Water Commissioners. The Committee stated the milfoil is getting thicker above the dam and it should be surveyed so we have the information to compare its growth over time. A. Smagula will put the site on her survey list for 2015. DES offered to provide plastic brochure holders with educational brochures for display at the River Run Deli if permitted by the Deli. A. Smagula said the state typically awards 40% with matching funds with 50% being the most; it depends on the number of grant applications received/treatment sites. A. Smagula said there will be more funds available in 2015 due to an increase in boater registration fees. The Committee reviewed before treatment and after treatment maps of the milfoil sites, and noted the clean up was significant. A. Smagula advised to budget at the same level as last year. The Committee discussed the 2-4D Companies (Lycott and Aquatic Control Technology) merging into one company, and the changes that may occur. A. Smagula stated she can get competitive bids with other options. The Committee expects the bid for the next cycle (2016, 2017, 2018) to reflect an increase in cost because normally costs go up. B. Mannion made a motion to recommend \$23,500 for the 2015 Warrant Article for Milfoil treatment, which is a reduction of about \$5,000.00 from last year's request, the motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed. T. Carl will send the warrant recommendation to the Town Administrator for consideration and he will submit an end of the year report for the 2014 Town Report.

Adjournment

J. Downing made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:12pm; motion was seconded by N. Downing and passed.

Respectfully submitted,

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