

TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
July 15, 2023, 9:00 AM
New Durham Community Room, New Durham, NH 03855

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*DRAFT: These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a
subsequent, duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of
said meeting. The draft will be posted on the website as a draft copy for public informational use only.*

PRESENT

Scott Lacroix, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement
Casey Buell, Co-Chair of the New Durham Water Quality Committee
Maureen Knepp, Co-Chair New Durham Water Quality Committee
Stephanie Richard – via Zoom
Allan Thorell- via Zoom
David Bickford

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lacroix called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. He stated the purpose of this committee is to research the status of all septic systems around lakes, ponds, and rivers in the Town of New Durham. He explained the changes in the ordinances and the information that is needed to update the database of septic systems. He explained all septic systems go into an Excel spreadsheet; if there is no information on file with the Town or the State for a system, an inspection by a licensed professional is required.

Mr. Lacroix stated they are also looking at any system twenty years or older to verify proper functions and use.

Mr. Bickford asked if homeowners are notified of the results of inspections or just NH DES. Mr. Lacroix stated homeowners will be notified. It was noted help from homeowners is necessary to get the information needed for updating the database.

Ms. Richard stated New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services has files by the name of property owners at the time of installation of systems so in order to properly file the information, research needs to be done to match properties. She gave an overview of the types of systems available for use around a lake, noting the type of systems are dependent on the specific site and the Town ordinances.

Ms. Buell, Chair of the Water Quality Committee, gave an overview of the goals and mission statement of the Committee, which is to maintain a high water quality standard for the Town's waterbodies, consistent with the standards for the classes and use of each waterbody. Ms. Buell explained the problems the Committee has found through sampling of swimmable waterbodies in the Town, noting an increase in phosphorus and a decrease in clarity which has resulted in cyanobacteria blooms. She stated the Committee believes there is a need for reviewing all septic systems within 250 feet of all

48 water bodies including Merrymeeting Lake, Shaws Pond, Chalk Pond, March Pond, Merrymeeting
49 River including Marsh, Jones and Downing ponds, Club Pond and the Ela River. Ms. Buell gave an
50 overview of what can be done to mitigate the negative effects on the waterbodies.

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52 Ms. Buell presented a summary of all the systems for lake properties that they have researched so far,
53 including the age of the systems and the overloaded systems. A summary of the water testing data was
54 reviewed and discussed.

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56 The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 AM.

57 Respectfully Submitted,

58 *Jennifer Riel*

59 Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary