

Draft Minutes of the New Durham Water Quality Committee
July 25, 2018
New Durham Town Hall
6:30PM

Present: Art and Sue Hoover, Fred and Cynthia Quimby, and Tom Rogenski.

Absent: Bill and Penny Meyer

Guests: none

Fred Opened the meeting at 6:32 PM

1. There was a discussion of the Minutes of June 21, 2018.
Art Hoover moved and Cynthia Quimby seconded a motion to accept the minutes as written. The vote was unanimous.
2. Fred reported on the success of DASH harvesting of milfoil in the Merrymeeting River this year. Aqualogics has billed us for 5 days of diving but provided harvesting reports for only three days. In those three days they collected 25 gallons of plants. This is a small fraction of the amounts they pulled in the past and probably reflects the difficulty in seeing the plants in all the silt and green algae. Fred explained that Mike Gelinas documented variable milfoil (Amy confirmed) in Marsh Pond this year and he asked the Divers to pull this as well, which they did while Mike watched. Mike thought there were more plants left behind. Fred recently documented a large growth on variable milfoil at Hoover Bridge and Mike documented two areas of Downing Pond with milfoil and he put buoys out. Fred contacted Aqualogics to come back and pull these patches. Fred will contact Aqualogics and get the missing two harvesting day reports. The invoice for 5 days work was \$4225.
3. Cyanobacteria Surveys have been conducted by Mike and Fred on the river and a table of results was provided. Jones Pond received an advisory on July 20, 2018 when surface levels of Oscillatoria reached over 3 million cells per ml. Amanda MacQuaid has large frozen samples from Jones Pond for toxin analysis. Amanda can do tests for microcystins and BMAA but not the other 4-5 toxins associated with NH freshwater cyanobacteria. After a discussion of whether or not to provide assistance to the State cyanobacteria lab to purchase ELISA kits for additional toxins, Cynthia moved and Tom seconded a motion to provide up to \$1000. to the State Lab this year for the purchase of two additional ELISA kits so a total of 4 toxins can be screened in New Durham waters. Amanda will provide the exact cost of the two tests. Amanda said if we bought the kits she would provide the labor for free. The results from the new tests could not be certified by the State. This to be requested from the Board of Selectmen to be withdrawn from the Milfoil Capitol Reserve Fund.
4. Next Fred reviewed a preliminary budget he presented, on 4 days' notice, to the CIPC. Fred reviewed the source of the figures he used to develop this budget. The total for 2019 was \$19,500; Tom reminded Fred that this should be raised by \$2000 for toxin testing in 2019 to bring the total to \$21,500. Everyone agreed on this budget.

The 10-year budget used figures and schedules even less firm than the one year budget. The total for 10 years called for a mixture of chemicals and DASH operations to control milfoil, phasing in public education over 7 years with the implementation of the WMP, and

continued water quality testing. Fred noted that the Town should be aware of upcoming expenses for the highway department to initiate some of the mitigations expected to occur this year addressing the WMP. These include modifications to the Town Boat Access, re-enforcing ditches to prevent erosion from stormwater and replacing crushed culverts. Fred thought these 2018 expenses may run \$30,000. Fred will convey this information to Scott Kinmond for Don Vachon.

5. Fred briefly described a meeting of the Hatchery Best Management Practices Working group with ideas for improving removal of solids from the Hatchery Waste Water using a sand filter designed by Mike Gelinas. Jason Smith thought this a pretty practical idea. And he was going to involve an engineer from NH DES.
6. Fred also told the group about a person, name presently unknown, who was kayaking in the Merrymeeting Marsh Wildlife Management Area during the 2016 cyanobacteria bloom who was admitted that day to the hospital. Fred will try to track down the name and address of this individual.
7. Finally, Fred reminded everyone that there would be a Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee meeting Thursday evening July 26, 2018 at the Gilman Museum in Alton. At this meeting there would be a discussion of Water Quality testing on the river, a conference call between the New Durham BOS and the EPA arising from Senator Shaheen's inquest, and an update from the Watershed Management Planners on progress they have made.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Quimby, July 29, 2018