

Draft Minutes of the Water Quality Committee

New Durham Water Quality Committee

Meeting on Wednesday, August 19, 2020

Community Room- observing 6 foot spacing and masks and disinfecting after the meeting .

6:00PM

Present: Cynthia and Fred Quimby, Bill and Penny Meyer, and Mike Gelinas

Guests: none

Quimby called the meeting to order at 6PM.

The Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on January 15, 2020 were reviewed and Bill Meyer made a motion, seconded by Penny, to accept the Draft Minutes as written. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstention (Gelinas had attended the meeting but was not yet a member).

A copy of "The Secret Life of a Lake" was provided to all in attendance. Fred asked that members review this book and tell him if they enjoyed it and whether they should provide the remaining copies to volunteers helping collect water quality data or to members of the Conservation Commission.

The Proposed 2021-2030 budget for the Water Quality Committee was reviewed. There was a discussion concerning the line item for cyanobacteria toxin analysis. Fred explained that the State had not tested any of the specimens submitted but Fred had found an outside laboratory which will run the analyses for \$366.00 per sample. Bill Meyer made the motion , seconded by Cynthia, to accept the budget as written with the addition of \$1098.00 for three toxin evaluations. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Minutes of the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee held on January 31, 2020 were reviewed.

Fred presented the correspondence between the NDWQC and the USEPA since the last meeting. This included a request by Danielle Gaito for our 2019-2020 water quality data. The data submitted was reviewed and the implications of the results discussed. The data clearly show that no significant dilution of phosphorus from the hatchery and very little assimilation of phosphorus occurs within the space between the hatchery discharge and Marsh Pond. In addition, the calculated annual monthly average for phosphorus at Marsh Pond was 29-31 percent higher than the average estimated by the Watershed Management Planners (which is also the data used by the USEPA in their calculations). Fred pointed this out and asked the EPA to please take this into consideration when making a final determination of the NPDES PMSFH discharge permit. Fred's comments to the EPA regarding the PMSFH Draft NPDES permit and the General Permit were included. Fred also mentioned a second email from Danielle Gaito , after receiving the data described above, to confirm that the samples were analyzed using the same methodology and at the same laboratory as the data collected before. In addition, Fred was asked to describe the exact location of the sampling sites. The only differences were that the Marsh Pond outlet was added to the sampling sites and samples for TP were frozen from March to July (as a result of the lab being closed) and they were thawed and immediately tested using the same methods in July.

Fred then reviewed the correspondence received from NH DES since the last meeting. Robert Scott's email to Mike Harrington's request for information was reviewed and discussed. Fred said he would like to meet with Scott and discuss the Committee's 2020 findings, Bill said he would like to attend this meeting.

A summary of the Cyanobacteria counts by Amanda MacQuaid on samples collected by the NDWQC in 2020 was reviewed and the addition of high Planktothrix counts in Wentworth Pond in 2020 was noted. Now the TP pollution is being felt all the way to Lake Winnepesaukee since Wentworth Pond is just 1 mile away.

Fred Reviewed the Milfoil Harvest reports submitted by Aqualogic Inc. (75 gallons this year). This is less than the total from last year. Amy resurveyed Jones and Downing Ponds and although Jones Pond looked good, she found significant variable milfoil in Downing Pond. Fred has written to Dom Jude asking if they can come back and re-harvest Downing Pond in September. This may cost up to \$1000. and the committee has the funds left in its budget.

Fred discussed the many conversations and meetings with the Planning Board to discuss a joint Educational Program and a joint letter to the Board of Selectpersons regarding the request to develop a septic system database for systems within 250 feet of surface water in New Durham. Bill explained the request to Mike who had not participated in the creation of this request. Bill moved and Penny seconded a motion for the NDWQC to send this letter to the BOS without the endorsement of the Planning Board. The vote was 4 in favor and 1 abstention.

Fred has talked twice in the past month with Forrest Bell Environmental Associates about the LLRM Report on Mill Pond. The Engineers have just sent their portion of the report to Laura Diemer and she will have the final report ready in 1 week. This is expected to be a very comprehensive report and may require an in-person meeting by FBE and CMSC to explain the information provided.

Some further conclusions regarding water quality data in 2020 and the results of searching the ECHO database to find evidence that the hatchery's temporary water treatment system is making a difference in the river were discussed. Mike discussed his concerns about the Draft Discharge permit limits and all agreed the TP limits should be lower than 14ppb (summer levels) and maintained at this lower level throughout the year.

Fred then showed the re-design of the s319 remediation at South Shore and Merrymeeting Roads to take the NH DOT suggestions into account. These re-designs were conducted by Eric Reitter the Town's new Civil Engineer who is also a stormwater specialist. Fred mentioned that it has been impossible to meet with the NH DOT to show this to them and get their approval. Fred, Scott Kinmond and Eric will meet with NH F&G and try to get their sign-on so the approved funds can be activated and the project started. Construction will likely take place in 2021.

Fred reviewed the recent meetings between CLF and NH F&G (actually the Attorney General for NH) and the decision by the judge at this hearing. It is likely the case will go to trial in September 2020.

Fred reviewed the acquisition of land in the Merrymeeting River and Lake Watershed, in New Durham and Alton, which has been placed into conservation. This is probably the single best long-term achievement to protect Merrymeeting Lake, the Merrymeeting River and Lake Winnepesaukee from non-point sources of phosphorus pollution the towns could have undertaken.

Fred asked the NDWQC to entertain the idea of the committee making a contribution to the Lay Lakes Monitoring Program for our continued use of their equipment. There was robust discussion on this. Mike reminded the Committee that they already paid for the horizontal sampler, however, Fred didn't

remember doing this. In retrospect, Fred realized Mike was correct and the sampler was paid for by the Committee in 2018.

Bill moved and Penny seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The meeting adjourned at 7:02PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Quimby, Chair