

Approved Minutes
New Durham Water Quality Committee
Wednesday May 18, 2022 @ 6:30PM
Community Room

Present: Casey Buell , Maureen Knepp, Mike Gelinas, Bill Meyer, Keith Barnard, and Fred Quimby

Absent: Penny Meyer, Cynthia Quimby (alt)

Quimby called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

Bill Moved and Casey seconded a motion to accept the minutes of the April 20,2022 as written. The vote in favor was unanimous.

New Business:

1. Update on the s319 project. Quimby explained how the revised scope of work, including finishing the second coat of paving in 2023, changed the overall cost of construction to a little under \$180,000.00. This was agreeable to the Board of Selectmen and they voted unanimously to accept the funds and begin the work. Several members asked if the project was still to begin after Labor Day and Quimby responded that it will begin immediately as soon as Russ Weldon receives a letter from the Town allowing his equipment in the road.
2. Fred mentioned that Bob Craycraft thought the new deep-water testing was going well but asked to have the two 250 mL opaque bottles used to collect 0-3M water marked either TP for total phosphorus or TN for total nitrogen. Maureen stated that the new boat on Marchs Pond and the canoe in Chalk Pond both worked fine. She said the volunteers performed well. Mike asked that we have available all the bottles necessary to sample water near the bottom in case anyone determines that the bottom is anoxic before the July test date. Fred said he would get these bottles together for this sample cycle and if they are not used they can be handed off to the next group. Mike explained that Marsh Pond was already temperature stratified.
3. Fred handed out the results of March and April surveys and noted that the two tributaries to Marchs Pond, which had high phosphorus in March, were now more normal and Bob's assessment was that they were simply brooks with lots of organic material breaking down...not a problem with erosion or pollution.
4. Fred read the email from Ted Diers and James Gallagher (both of NHDES) regarding the status of dams on the Merrymeeting River. Initially, we need to wait for the feasibility study to be completed on Merrymeeting, Jones and Alton Power Dams. The study would provide alternatives for each structure and the State will coordinate with the locality to select the best alternative. This year the Jones Pond dike will be repaired and to do this the water in Jones Pond will be dropped 2-3 feet. Fred communicated this to Amy Smagula and she responded that we will plan on herbicide for Marsh and Downing Ponds this year and hold off on Jones Pond until it could be re-assessed after treatment of Marsh Pond.
5. Some people have complained that Fred's emails are going to junk/spam. Fred explained how to fix this problem which Keith said works but Maureen could not fix the problem in her computer using this method and found she had to send the email from spam to her email account to resolve the issue.

6. Other business: Maureen explained that the water gage situated by LOCSS people at Marchs Pond was swept away by the ice. They are waiting to see if it will be replaced. Maureen and Casey both wanted to invite the new volunteers to our regular meetings and several members replied that this should be fine given our meetings are public. Fred suggested that Maureen email them to be sure they feel invited. Maureen also wanted to send out a newsletter each month, as results come in, to inform the public of the ongoing nature of our work. Several members thought secchi disk transparency was the most appropriate test to send out since it is well established and the results are easy to interpret. Fred said he had read a pamphlet in the past month which fully described the equipment, how it is used, and how to interpret the results. Both Maureen and Bill wanted a copy of this pamphlet.
7. The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman