

Draft Minutes
Town of New Durham
Water Quality Committee Meeting
Wednesday 20 July 2022 at 6:30PM Community Room

Present: Fred Quimby, William Meyer, Mike Gelinas, Casey Buell, Maureen Knepp, Keith Barnard and Penny Meyer.

Absent: Cynthia Quimby (alt)

Quimby called the meeting to order at 6:35PM

The Draft Minutes from June 15,2022 were discussed and Bill Meyer moved and Keith Barnard seconded a motion to approve the Minutes as written. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Update from Amy Smagula regarding milfoil treatment. Two weeks following the application of herbicide in Marsh Pond the amount of floating dead milfoil from Marsh Pond into Jones Pond was massive and over several days blocked the channel under Merrymeeting Road Bridge necessitating the NH DOT to come and unblock the dam. Also, a small number of shiners and a single brown bullhead were seen dead. Amy thought the dead fish were unrelated to herbicide application. Fred asked if anything unusual happened in Downing Pond and Keith said he had seen no floating masses of milfoil. We will get a complete report on the efficacy of herbicide treatment from Amy in the next month.

Update on the s319 stormwater project. Quimby explained that this project is nearly finished requiring only paving and planting trees and shrubs. Pictures of the roadway were shared but most members had traveled to the site and were impressed with the outcome. Quimby explained that there was some hesitancy in spending any more money on this project and he had been asked to meet with the BOS on Thursday evening and review the spending to date and the amount of money needed to complete this project.

Knepp reviewed efforts by several of our volunteers to inspect Chalk and Marchs Ponds and declare them free of variable milfoil. Fred has contacted Amy regarding these results. We only have Coldrain and Club Ponds to complete the milfoil inspection for the entire Town

Update on Septic System Inventory. Quimby reviewed his attempts to get Gary Spaulding to visit and review the format for collecting data on septic systems. Gary has been unresponsive and he was recommended as "the person in the know" to have review this matter. Maureen was not impressed with Gary's single response where he said he would not support a new State law requiring Advanced Technology systems to replace failed systems. Quimby explained that many advanced technology systems do not have the life span of older pipe and stone leach fields. Several members encouraged Fred to email Pat Tarpey and explain that Gary is unresponsive and whether she had any other suggestions.

Update on Craycraft's water Quality Data for 2022. All the data for the year was circulated to all members. Quimby also plotted some of this data showing the rising concentration of phosphorus as seasonal dry weather predominated this summer. He also showed a comparison of the monthly concentrations of phosphorus at Site 1 (Boat Access) for 2022 and 2021. Much lower levels were seen in

2021, a rather wet year. The only deep survey to show internal loading was Marsh Pond in June. At that time Planktothrix cyanobacteria were 25,000 cells/mL, insufficient to post an advisory.

Quimby also reviewed the recent release of an RFP from NH F&G for a 1-year study of the impact of phosphorus on the Merrymeeting River. This project would also identify which methodologies may be employed to reduce the release of phosphorus from sediment in the river.

Quimby also discussed his intent to attend the NDDPW budget sessions in August and request that the BOS approve funds next year to be used only to clean catch basins and sediment forebays in the Spring. Mike asked if there were many catch basins which were owned by the Town and Fred replied that Will Cardinal told him there were and they had not been cleaned in 7 years. Fred mentioned catch basins on Meaders Point Road, The Town Beach and on South Shore Road as examples. Mike made the point that the Town could not clean basins on private property.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman