

Draft Minutes

New Durham Water Quality Committee

Monthly Meeting on Wednesday 16 November 2022

Community Room at 6:30PM

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

Call to Order: Fred called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

The Minutes of 21 September were distributed and discussed. Bill Moved and Casey seconded a motion to accept the Minutes as written. The vote in favor was unanimous.

New Business:

Mike Gelinas brought up his prior meeting with the Planning Board to discuss a variety of issues dealing with water quality. Remaining to be discussed were the issues of accessory structures on non-conforming (too small) lots and a Table of new proposed setbacks for natural buffers, structures, septic systems and impervious surfaces from surface water. It was the sense of the NDWQC that water quality was not always improved or preserved by some of the proposed ordinance changes. Maureen Knepp was designated as the person to draft a statement, on behalf of the NDWQC, expressing our concerns to the Planning Board.

Fred relayed the essence of three emails from Amy Smagala received since our last meeting. The grant for 2023 treatment was received, the companies contracted to conduct Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) have been asked to submit bids to Amy and Amy re-evaluated Marsh Pond and Downing Pond in late summer and found no growth of variable milfoil. She recommended pulling milfoil only in 2023. Also Aqualogic, the DASH company contracted to pull in 2022, was never asked to come based on Amy's late summer findings; Fred contacted the company and they have agreed to send the pre-payment of \$1400.00 back to the Town.

Fred shared pictures and the result of testing the water in Merrymeeting lake (MML) in 2022. Surface water slicks were documented three times in Pleasant Cove and two of those times high numbers of the cyanobacteria Anabeana (also called Dolichospermum) were found. Likewise, samples of water were collected in front of 3 house lots on MML and given coded to Fred. Only one was found to have significant numbers of Anabeana present (but not enough to be called a bloom). The owner of the house where the sample containing cyanobacteria was found was contacted by a neighbor and the owner assured him that the septic system would be rebuilt in October 2022. As on this date a patch of land on this property has had the trees cleared.

Fred has met with the Capital Improvement Committee (CIC), Budget Committee (BC) and the Select Board(BOS) and each of these groups have told Fred they want the proposed septic system inventory developed in 2023 and have put \$4200.00 aside for this endeavor. Fred has met twice with the Building Inspector/Health Office, Scott Lacroux, and he has met with officials in Meredith and agrees with the reasoning behind Meredith's expanded septic inventory and he wants New Durham to develop one along those lines. He also has modified Meredith's ordinance on testing suspect systems and wants to introduce this to the Planning Board for adoption. He is very anxious to become involved after seeing some of the development and proposed development for MML. And he is aware that there are some

problem septic systems in place on MML and he is watching them closely. When Fred asked if any member would like to be involved with this effort both Casey and Maureen raised their hands. Fred will set up a meeting for Casey and Maureen to meet with Scott.

The Water Quality data update will take a significant amount of time to discuss, and Fred opted to defer this discussion for the next meeting. There were several bizarre things which happened in the Town's Lakes and Ponds this summer and Fred thinks this will take time to sort out. By next month we will also have data from the end of October and November in hand.

The s319 Stormwater BMP has been completed and tested and during the last storm samples were taken by Weston and Sampson Engineering for modeling and to write the Pollution Control Report (PCR) for the NH DES. Fred met with the Watershed Division of the NH DES and brought them all their completed forms, plus 10 descriptive tables, 23 invoices and 21 check stubs showing the invoice was paid. This paperwork also anticipated the PCR and the final report will all be submitted before the deadline of December 30, 2022, and a estimate for the costs of these remaining documents was included with the package. Two invoices were not paid and Fred plans to write motions for the BOS to move at their Thursday meeting which include these 2 invoices plus two others to be submitted by Weston and Sampson Engineering as soon as this work is complete.

Old Business:

Maureen asked if Mike would help her prepare a warrant article for the Conservation of land in the Southwest corner of Shaws Pond. Mike recommended Bill Malay, who lives on MML, to assist Maureen. Fred will send Maureen Bill Malay's email address.

Maureen and Casey brought up the land excavation along the Kings Highway which is being excavated by Green Oaks in the watershed of two MML tributaries. Mike Gelinis knew where this was and how to collect water samples to see if the phosphorus levels were high. Fred is to bring several TP containers to Mike so this can be done.

Bill moved and Penny seconded a motion to adjourn. The vote was unanimous at 8:13PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Quimby, chair