

Draft Minutes

New Durham Water Quality Committee(NDWQC)

Meeting Wednesday 23 February 2023

New Durham Community Room 6:30PM

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

Absent: Penny Meyer and Keith Barnard

Fred Opened the Meeting at 6:32 PM

Minutes : The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 January 2023 were reviewed. Bill moved and Maureen seconded a motion to accept the minutes as written. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

New Business:

Fred asked Committee Representative Bill Meyer if any new meetings or correspondence had been taken place with the Alton Water Quality Group. Bill responded that there had been no new activity since our last meeting. In addition the New Durham/Alton Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee had not met since the last meeting.

Fred asked Committee Representative Maureen Knepp if there was any new activity with the Wolfeboro Bay Subwatershed Committee. Maureen reviewed the needs of this newly established committee as creating a Watershed Management plan for the Wolfeboro Bay Subwatershed. She had been asked by Pat Tarpey to be a member and the first meeting was scheduled for February 28, 2023. Maureen and Casey have been active in assessing water quality in Shaws Pond which contributes to Beaver Brook in this subwatershed.

Fred asked Casey Buell, co-chair of the subcommittee on developing the New Durham Septic System Inventory to explain the recent work and meetings she and Maureen have had with Scott LaCroix and the Land Use Office. Casey briefly described the additional role Scott LaCroix was taking on regarding working with shoreline property owners interested in building a new House along the shoreline to consider also constructing a new Septic System. Scott is the Town's Building Inspector and Health Officer and in this latter capacity he is responsible for making sure septic systems are functioning appropriately. This issue is particularly important when septic systems are located close to fresh waterbodies. Scott has advised the last 19 owners of shoreland property on Merrymeeting Lake and all have agreed to rebuild a new septic system. To better identify homes within the shoreland with potential septic system problems, Maureen and Casey have agreed to develop an inventory of systems along all Lakes and Ponds as well as along the Merrymeeting and Ela Rivers. To date both Maureen and Casey have documented a large number of these homes which have little or no information on their septic systems. They have decided to use the State's Subsurface Onestop Database to better identify systems installed after 1987. Disappointingly, this system is technologically malfunctioning and is not giving us the information that we were hoping for. We will continue to try checking this website.

The Health ordinance for septic systems is still in for legal evaluation. Once this is approved by the Select Board, Casey and Maureen will give a preliminary update of the findings of the survey.

Fred had previously circulated a draft copy of: WQPOD and Setbacks Requirements, which is intended to be used as a discussion piece from the NDWQC during a joint meeting with the Planning

Board (PB) and Zoning Board of Assessment (ZBA). Committee members contributed to a discussion which led to changes in section 1 and section 6.C.1 and 2.

Respectfully submitted,
Fred Quimby, chair