

Draft Minutes of the October 16,2019 New Durham Water Quality Committee (NDWQC)  
New Durham Water Quality Committee  
Meeting October 16, 2019 Town Hall 6:30PM

Present: Fred and Cynthia Quimby, Sue and Art Hoover, and Tom Rogenski

Absent: Penny and Bill Meyer

Fred Quimby opened the meeting at 6:32PM

The Draft Minutes from the July 17,2019 meeting were discussed. Art Hoover moved to accept the minutes as written and Quimby seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Quimby presented an update on Milfoil from Amy Smagula's Fall survey of Marsh, Jones and Downing Ponds. Amy reports no variable milfoil found in Downing or Jones Ponds but a few weeds were seen in Marsh Pond at the lower end before the bridge. When asked if we can remove these weeds by hand pulling alone in 2020, Amy replied, "we can try".

Quimby reported that the section 319 grant for implementation of best management practices (BMP) on South Shore Road was submitted on time and with four letters of commitment and five letters of support. There was no response from NH Department of Transportation( NH DOT) which Jeff Marcoux attributed to this being their busy season. At some point we will need a letter of commitment from NH DOT as well.

This s319 grant application assumed the hiring of a civil engineer to oversee this project and assist the town in developing additional stormwater BMPs for other town roads. Scott Kinmond wrote an RFQ and submitted it to Marcoux' office for approval and posting as required by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). An engineer will be chosen shortly after the deadline for RFQ which was the end of October.

Quimby then shared the 2020 budget as presented to the Board of Selectmen (BOS) this month. Basically, there was only a single change and that was in the amount the NDWQC requested for s319 matching funds. We had previously asked for \$40,000 and with this grant now completed and the BOS committing \$40,000 of labor and equipment from the highway department, our matching costs have fallen to \$26,700. No other changes were made.

Mike Harrington sent out an email inviting a large group of New Durham residents to attend a meeting at the hatchery with NH Fish and Game (NHF&G) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be held on October 9,2019. At the last minute he sent another email dis-inviting everyone except the EPA and NH F&G. Quimby sent an email to Damian Houlihan (Chief, Industrial Permits Section, Region 1 EPA) expressing his displeasure with the process. Houlihan responded that it was always the EPAs goal to release the draft permit by the end of the calendar year. This is not true, prior letters between Senator Shaheen and the EPA clearly said the release date would be the Federal Government's fiscal year ending September 30, 2019. They missed that date and sent a letter acknowledging this to Shaheen. In addition, Houlihan's email indicated that the meeting was to gather "all relevant information" but in emails from Jason Smith and David Neils it seems that the meeting consisted of a tour for the benefit of a new employee at the EPA who was assigned to assist Danielle Gaito in writing the permit. Later David Neils

emailed Quimby requesting the results of studies this summer to monitor internal loading of phosphorus in Marsh and Jones Ponds.

Quimby reviewed the current status of the action taken by the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). They have hired an expert on hatchery waste water from Washington State named Jack Rensel. He has been corresponding with Mike Gelinas and comparing notes before going to trial. The trial is scheduled for the first week in January 2020. Quimby, Gelinas and Hoover have all been deposed by the CLF. Gelinas and the staff at the hatchery were deposed over a three-hour period in Concord this week by NH F&G. CLF also requested from Quimby the quotations received from AirMax Corp. for installation and maintenance of aeration systems for Marsh and Jones ponds. This system is designed to prevent anoxia at the bottom of these ponds and prevent internal loading from occurring. Clearly CLF intends to request some remediation of the Merrymeeting River after the Hatchery problem has been addressed.

There will be a meeting on October 28, 2019 at Alton Town Hall for Town officials from Alton and New Durham to include: Town Administrators, Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Building Inspectors, Code Enforcement Officers and health Officers. Forrest Bell of Forrest Bell Environmental Associates has agreed to speak to this group about implementation of the recommendations in the Watershed Management Plan's (WMP) Action Plan. The meeting is scheduled for two hours from 6-8PM. Forrest has agreed to conduct this question and answer session pro bono.

Quimby described his recent Planning Board (PB) Meeting on October 1, 2019 where he reviewed the WMP with the board and discussed his intent to develop a public education program, concerning water quality and water as a natural resource, with the Planning Board, Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. At the conclusion the PB approved the idea of developing this program together with the NDWQC. Quimby then handed out an outline for an Elementary School curriculum to introduce exactly these issues to New Durham students in 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Hopefully, the students will take some of the work home to do with parents and get them involved as well. Sue asked Fred about the heron logo at the Elementary School. Fred responded that the school had a contest for students to design a school logo and one student (the winner) designed the heron standing in a marsh. Then the design was taken to the high school where another New Durham student actually fabricated the logo out of metal and it was mounted on the tower of the Elementary School.

Finally, Quimby reviewed the most important water quality findings presented at the Cyanobacteria Mitigation Steering Committee meeting on September 12, 2019. These included a massive amount of internal phosphorus turnover in Marsh Pond in August where the phosphorus concentration in the water at the bottom was 720% higher than the concentration on the top of the water column. Jones Pond also showed internal loading but the magnitude was not nearly as high as Marsh Pond. And to the surprise of everyone, there was no internal turnover at Mill Pond and in fact Mill Pond's deep spot never became anoxic nor did it display any stratification for temperature. The members approved conducting a Lakes Loading Response Model (LLRM) study of the Mill Pond drainage area. Quimby also asked for the cost of a watershed survey report for the Mill Pond drainage area to include a description of all water sources contributing to Mill Pond and all remediations required as well as an estimated cost for the remediations. This quote was \$4000. Together with the LLRM the total costs will be \$7000. And that will provide Alton with all the material they need to apply for section 319 grant funding to remediate these problems.

Cynthia moved and Sue seconded a motion for adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.

Respectfully submitted, Fred Quimby, Chair