

Draft Minutes
New Durham Water Quality Committee
April 17, 2019
Town Hall 6:30PM

Present: Bill and Penny Meyer and Cynthia and Fred Quimby

Absent: Art and Susan Hoover and Tom Rogenski

Fred Quimby opened the meeting at 6:34PM

There was a brief discussion of the Minutes from the March 27,2019 Meeting. Bill Meyer moved and Cynthia Quimby seconded a motion to approve the minutes as written. The vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

Fred Quimby explained that he had attended a meeting of the Water Quality Testing Working Group with Forrest Bell Environmental (FBE) and Bob Craycraft at UNH on March 29,2019. At this meeting the possible summer water quality testing program was discussed and documented in a Table entitled: Projects on the Merrymeeting River Watershed which add new information to strengthen the WMP (this was previously emailed to committee members). This table was sent to David Neils at the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NH DES). After receiving the table David emailed Fred and ask to have a meeting in Concord, NH. This meeting was held on April 9,2019. At this meeting David Neils told Fred that the Special Studies listed in the Table were too expensive and time consuming and he had another idea. David planned to install two water quality sondes, one each in March and Jones Pond deep sites, to continuously monitor temperature(T), Conductivity (Con), pH, and dissolved oxygen (DO). All we would need to do is conduct periodic tests for total phosphorus (TP). He also thought a better approach to testing if cold dense water from the hatchery outfalls traveled along the bottom of the river and settled at the deep sites creating the high TP seen there, was to hire a company to run a dye test by placing a fluorescent dye in outfall #002 and go to the deep site and see if it ended up there. During the same meeting David Neils committed the NH DES to pay for 5 tests before and 5 tests after the implementation of a new Best Management Practice at the Hatchery. The tests were for TP and total nitrogen (TN). He also committed to conducting bathymetry on Marsh and Mill Ponds which have never been done before. This changed much of our planned approach to 2019 water quality testing.

Since the March 29,2019 meeting Laura Diemer (FBE) has been emailing Fred about changes in the testing plan. She still thought it important to continue River, Pond and Tributary water quality testing and a chart of these waterbodies was created documenting 69 different waterbodies. Fred and Mike Gelinas pondered over how all this information was to be used and Fred wrote Laura an email asking that question. In her reply Laura stated that it was too late for any of these results to make it into the WMP and she would work on this summer testing next Spring under a new contract.

Fred Quimby then presented he current thoughts on 2019 testing which he plans to discuss with the Working Group on Friday April 19,2019. The letter Fred handed out was entitled : 2019 Water Quality Testing and he briefly went over the highlights of this document. Everyone seemed to agree that this reduced scope in water quality testing was more appropriate than the 69 waterbody approach.

Fred described a meeting he had with Don Kretchmer on April 16, 2019 at the request of David Neils to address sediment sampling in our waterways. This was a very informative meeting and gave impetus to the idea that some additional funds will be needed to run sediment analyses on Mill, Marsh and possibly Jones Ponds to see if the TP present in the sediment is bound to aluminum or iron. If it's mostly bound to iron and the water becomes anoxic (which we already know occurs in Marsh and Jones Ponds), the TP will be released into the river after the hatchery stops discharging TP and it will keep the cyanobacteria growing in the river. Furthermore, it will send the New Durham TP all down into Alton and Lake Winnepesaukee. The information gleaned from the sediment analyses will instruct us on the next steps to be taken to prevent a disaster downstream. The total job of project design, specimen collection, laboratory testing, and interpretation of results will cost about \$7000 for Marsh and \$5000-6000 at other locations most of the cost being the lab testing. Bill asked if there were state funds available for sediment testing and Fred said he didn't know and he would find out.

Amy Smagula emailed Fred asking if he thought treating the milfoil in the Spring would complicate the water quality testing being conducted. Fred had previously asked David Neils this same question and David said any TP released from dying milfoil would be insignificant compared to all the TP from the hatchery. Fred recommended going ahead with the treatment as scheduled.

Jason Smith was told about the summer testing plans and particularly the Hatchery BMP plans and he agreed whole heartedly to assist in any way possible.

Cynthia moved and Bill seconded a motion for adjournment. The vote passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 6:53PM.