

Approved Minutes  
New Durham Water Quality Committee  
Wednesday July 21, 2021  
Community Room at 6:30PM

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

Absent: Cynthia Quimby (alternate)

New Business:

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Fred
2. The Draft Minutes for the June 16,2021 Meeting were circulated and after a brief discussion Bill Meyer moved and both Maureen and Penny seconded a motion to accept the minutes as circulated, which included changes previously suggested by Bill, Maureen and Mike. The vote in favor was unanimous.
3. Maureen provided an update of the activities of the LOCSS subgroup (Maureen and Chrissy). NH now has 19 lakes and ponds in the program. Graphs depicting the changes in lake levels for Shaws and Marchs Ponds, since the inception of the program, were shown to all. The impact of Tropical Storm Elsa was obvious.
4. Mike Gelinias provided a brief update on the hatchery which continues to clean up the site and take many loads of waste water and sediment to the Town sand pit. Mike also briefly discussed his observations checking the deep sites at Chalk, Jones and Marsh Ponds. Secchi disk readings and dissolved oxygen levels at each site were shared with the Committee members. At this point there was a discussion for the need to better inform the New Durham public on the results of the Committee's activities. Maureen thought this an appropriate time to continue the discussion brought before the Committee last month, since residents were now asking her and Mike questions about the meaning of the test results they obtained. The idea of starting a Facebook page, which could capture and explain the water quality findings on each lake and pond, was advanced. Penny and Bill thought it would be appropriate to re-publish any announcement made by the State dealing with water quality in New Durham and let the State's description serve as the explanation. The recent Advisory for Marsh Pond was used as an example. Fred thought that if this was to reflect the entire NDWQC than each announcement should be circulated among Committee members for their input before publication. Casey expressed concern that whatever we published should be clear and easy to understand, otherwise we may elicit more questions than we resolve. Fred suggested that those who seem interested in the Facebook idea (Mike, Casey and Maureen) get together and come up with a plan to bring to the Committee on August 18,2021. Maureen also noted that the Town website does not describe the current mission of the Water Quality Committee but rather focuses only on Milfoil. Fred explained that the Board of Selectmen asked the Committee to expand from Milfoil into other water quality issues in 2017 and a new mission statement was written and provided to the BOS at that time. Fred will find it and present it to Mark Sullivan who edits the Town Website.\*
5. Fred provided a summary of this year's Variable Milfoil Treatment Efforts which include a record 1170 gallons of milfoil removed from Marsh, Jones and Downing Ponds during 10 days in June. Fred commented that Variable Milfoil at Mill Pond, which has been untouched this year, is now

at its peak with some plants growing 7 feet from the bottom. As we begin a survey for this and other exotic plants in New Durham swimmable ponds this summer, the Variable Milfoil should be easy to identify based on its height, diameter and red stem. Fred brought a sample for everyone to see. This years unexpected large collection of milfoil signals the need for treatment with herbicides next year and the 2022 budget reflects this. Keith asked a question about the plants growing on his beach at Downing Pond and across the road in the terminus of Foxy Johnny Brook. Fred responded that they were native to NH and probably those on his beach should not be removed. Bill explained that he tried to remove some of the native plants on his beach and discovered the roots went all the way back into the bank. Keith asked about State imposed fines for transporting milfoil by boat use and several people replied that there were fines although there was no consensus on the amount. Mike Gelinas asked if we need signs to identify variable milfoil at other Town boat landings and Fred thought this was a good idea and will get three signs from the State.

6. Fred commented on all the work completed by Eric Reitter, the Town's stormwater engineer, on the s319 project. New detailed engineering plans, the Site Specific Project Plan and the Shoreland Permit have all been completed and provided to Fred and Bill for review. By the end of July bidding documents will be completed and some will be advertised for bids, such as the removal of trees and stumps at the South Shore Road site. The bulk of the work is scheduled for next year.
7. Fred previously provided Committee Members with the most recent cyanobacteria report as well as the NH DES Publication of an Advisory for Marsh Pond. Planktothrix isothrix was documented in very high numbers throughout the water column. All of Fred's counts were verified by the NH DES.
8. Fred reviewed the stream gauge numbers over the past 2 months and the impact Storm Elsa had on raising the pond levels. Elsa doubled the discharge volume from 22 to 44 million gallons a day at Alton Bay between July 5 and 10. On July 5 the volume and Total Protein values showed that 3.56 pounds of phosphorus were entering Lake Winnepesaukee daily. Maureen mentioned the beach erosion Fred photographed at Shaws Pond after Elsa went through and asked how this erosion should be addressed. Fred asked who owned the beach and boat access to Shaws Pond and was told it was owned by the Town of New Durham. Fred stated he would share the picture with Don Vachon, Road Agent and begin a discussion with him on remediation.
9. Fred and Bill presented the ACIPC 10 year budget which was presented on July 10,2021. Fred explained the rationale for the timing of requests and the inflationary increases he suggested over the 10-year span. Fred and Bill asked each Committee Member to look at this budget carefully and record any question you may have for the next meeting to be held on August 18, 2021.
10. And finally, Fred announced his retirement as chairman of the New Durham Water Quality Committee effective August 17,2021. He briefly discussed a new method for dispersing the activities among all Committee Members and expressed an interest in continuing to head the Milfoil Treatment Program for the Committee. Committee Members should discuss this issue between themselves and let Fred know who was selected as the next chair or co-chairs of the Committee. At that point Fred will bring all the Committee files to the new leader and review each project if requested.
11. The meeting adjourned at 7:20PM.

\*The mission statement will be sent to all Committee Members first to be sure that since 2017 there are not activities the Committee oversees which may lead to a modified mission statement.

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman