

Draft Minutes

New Durham Water Quality Committee Meeting

Wednesday February 17, 2021

Zoom Meeting 6:30PM

Present (by roll call): Fred and Cynthia Quimby (alt), Bill and Penny Meyer, Mike Gelinas, Maureen Knepp, Keith Barnard, and Scott Kinmond (TA and Zoom Host).

Absent: Casey Buell and Chrissy Morell (invited participant)

The meeting was called to order by Fred Quimby at 6:34PM and a statement regarding the Governor's Executive Order #12, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 was read.

F. Quimby asked if there were any changes to the Minutes of the Meeting held on December 16, 2020. Hearing none, F. Quimby moved and Bill Meyer seconded a motion to accept the Minutes of December 16, 2020 as written. The vote (by roll call) in favor was unanimous.

Fred announced that we had a signed contract with the State of New Hampshire for matching funds for treatment of variable milfoil in the Merrymeeting River in 2021. In accordance with our application these funds will cover treatment by Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting and the State will provide 40 % up to a total of \$4040. This is the highest match New Durham has received from the State for this purpose.

Fred announced that the Governor's 2021-22 budget has requested \$4,615,000 for the Construction of a Waste Water Treatment Facility for the Powder Mill State Fish Hatchery. Written correspondence between Fred and Jason Smith (Director of Inland Fisheries, NH Fish and Game Department (NH F&G)) indicated that the most recent estimate was 5.1 million dollars, but NH F&G would have a better idea of the final cost when the Final Engineering Plan is completed. Fred reminded everyone that the NH F&G also applied for \$500,000 from the NH Clean Water Revolving Fund for the Final Design which does bring the total to \$5.1 million. Also, the NH F&G has already spent \$60,000 for the 15% engineering Plan from which they have the estimate of 4.615 million dollars. Jason also alerted Fred to the fact that he has accepted another job, not with NH F&G, and will be leaving soon. Upon hearing this there was general dismay from the meeting's participants.

Fred made the group aware of a pre-print of an article in Biological Reviews which shows that the addition of nitrogen in addition to phosphorus into freshwater streams and rivers causes greater productivity than the addition of either nutrient alone. Fred has made the EPA aware of this paper and asked that they consider setting additional limits for nitrogen in the upcoming Administrative Order. A link to the article was provided to all members. Fred's letter to the EPA was as a resident of New Durham not the chairman of the Water Quality Committee.

Fred recently spoke with Eric Rietter, the New Durham Stormwater Engineer, about the s319 project at South Shore and Merrymeeting Roads. Wetland delineation and surveying the area has been completed and the Final Engineering Design is underway. Eric hopes to provide the committee the Final Drawings in March. Fred will invite him to attend a meeting and present his findings.

Fred then introduced the main topic of the evening which was to set up water quality collection teams for the 2021 sampling year. He began the discussion by stating he created teams based solely on the location of each member's residence and anything stated can be changed. He also indicated that anyone

who feels they should not participate in a certain function should let him know, there is no requirement to become involved in sampling. Fred reminded everyone that there would be 2 training sessions held in the April-May time period; one by Bob Craycraft on the use of water quality instruments and another by Amy Smagula on identification of variable milfoil and other exotic plants and animals found in NH. In addition to these training sessions, nobody will be expected to participate until they have been out at a sampling site with one of the previously trained members which include: Fred, Bill, Mike and Maureen. That being said, Fred has heard from both Chrissy Morell and Casey Buell and both are anxious to get involved. Casey indicated she has a small motor boat, kayak and canoe. And while she did not mention it, Fred expects Chrissy has access to a variety of boats at Camp Birch Hill.

Fred indicated he has a small row boat ,2 kayaks and a canoe and suggested Mike has a small rowboat and kayak as well, Bill has a row boat (on Downing Pond), a kayak and canoe and Keith(who communicated with the group by writing in the comments/questions section, since his mic was not working) said he had a rowboat, kayak and paddleboat on Downing Pond and would be happy to survey Downing Pond with Bill. Fred and Mike both have means for hauling their rowboats to another Pond. Maureen said she had a rowboat and kayak and canoe but not a means to haul the boat around, it was on Shaws Pond. Fred thought that would be fine since Chrissy's boats would be on Marches and Chalk Ponds.

Row boats were for deep site sampling which requires 2 people in the boat. There was some discussion about whether or not 1 person could do this alone and while Mike has done this Fred thought Mike preferred having a helper. Mike agreed. Mike also brought along an electric powered motor to reach distant sites like Marsh Pond deep, and the extra weight almost necessitates 2 people. Other distant sites include Shaws Pond deep, Marches Pond deep and Chalk Pond deep. Chrissy has a small motorboat on Marches Pond which may be able to get over to Chalk Pond.

Given the increased productivity seen in Shaws, Chalk and Marches Ponds Fred thought it might be appropriate to sample the tributaries to these three ponds once in Spring when the water was high and again in the summer. Maureen asked about the tributary to Shaws Pond and it was from her driveway. Mike also has sampled a culvert which empties into Shaws Pond and Maureen thought her knew where that was also. Mike may need to show Chrissy where the tributaries were to Marches and Chalk Ponds.

Finally, Mike asked about the procedure for identifying variable milfoil and Fred explained that this was done from any of the three vessels mentioned and he did this on Merrymeeting Lake by moving slowly in water about 6-8 feet deep where he could see to a depth of 10 feet and all the way into the shore. The observer would take a zip lock bag for each sample being submitted and write the name of the waterbody and the location of the sample. Bill suggested a topographical map of the pond be provided and the observer place an X on the spot where the sample was collected. Fred has long-handled grabbers which can be used to grab a piece of the submerged plant in question if necessary. Mike reminded Fred that he had several young people interested in becoming involved especially in identifying variable milfoil. Fred asked Mike if he had their email addresses and Mike responded that he would get them. Fred would then put the students names on his email list and they would get all future newsletters and be able to help select the date when Amy came to discuss identifying milfoil and other exotics.

To end the meeting Fred brought several news items to everyone's attention: 1. The National Rivers and Streams Assessment is now available for the first time since the last survey conducted in 2008-2009. Fred described the report and provided a link to it.

2. Fred described the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Watershed Poster Contest and provided a link to it. He and Bill had previously talked to people in Maine about their poster contest where cash awards were given to the students with the best posters. Bill also mentioned the various people in NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES) and NH F&G who have programs including a poster contest and teacher's materials. Bill also suggested that if we decided to sponsor something like this, our local students could enter a state-wide contest. Fred asked everyone to think about this and if we thought this a good idea we could increase our budget request in 2021 to accommodate this program. Maureen suggested with the current COVID-19 problem it was unlikely this could be done before 2022 anyway.

3. Moose Mountain Regional Greenway approached Fred to assist them in finding a person who could lead a student session on vernal pools on the Birch Ridge Town Forrest. Fred suggested UNH Cooperative Extension service STEM Docent program. Fred asks that anyone who would like to be involved with this project get in touch with him.

4. Since the EPA was requiring NH F&G to sample the Marsh Pond deep site twice monthly from May to October and we were sampling the same site monthly, perhaps, during our collection, we could take the extra samples needed for NH DES to run the analyses in their lab. Fred is willing to carry the samples over to Concord and Mike said he is willing to collect the samples. Fred has made an offer to David Neils (NH DES) but has not heard back from him.

Bill moved for adjournment, everyone agreed and the time was 7:05PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fred Quimby, chairman

2/20/21

Cc: Bob Craycraft and Am Smagula