

**Freedom Aquatic Invasive Species Committee
December 12, 2019
Freedom Town Hall**

Members Present: Chairman Ned Kucera, Vice Chair Jim McElroy, Bill Elliott, Bruce Howlett, Gerard Constantino

Members Absent:

Others Present: Stacy Bolduc Recording Secretary

Quorum: A quorum was met

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Minutes

The minutes for November 14, 2019, meeting were reviewed.

Bill made a motion, seconded by Bruce, to accept the minutes for the November 14, 2019 meeting as written. All were in favor.

Review Invoices

There were no invoices.

Bob Patterson, AB Aquatics

Bob was not able to make the meeting.

2020 Budget

Ned will go before Selectmen December 16th to present the FAISC budget. With the aid of a handout (see attached), the budget was reviewed and discussed at length. The following points were discussed:

- The 2019 budget for the Lake Host Program was \$10,000.00 of that Ossipee and Freedom paid \$3,750.00 each towards the program after grant money and donations and 2018 rollover.
- There is \$3,728.66 in the account with NH Lakes. Ned sent Crystal an email to take the dues out of the balance.
- NH Lakes Annual Summary/Lake Host Program was reviewed.
- Ned would like to keep \$2,000 as a cushion for the Lake Host Program to start the payroll and pay annual dues. He would like to work up next year's numbers in February or March. Instead of each town contributing \$3,750.00, Ned thinks each town's contribution will be lower next year, could be as low as \$3,500.00. He sent a note to the Town of Ossipee Conservation Commission informing them their share would be around \$3,500.00 for the tri-town Lake Host Program. Until all the paperwork is filled out in Feb.

Check future meeting minutes for any amendments or changes to these minutes

or March, he won't know the exact number. The Lake Host Program payroll should be covered between the buffer, grant money, and each town contributing \$3,500.00.

- Rotating coverage for the ramps was discussed. Rt. 25, Pine River, and getting permission from Totem Pole and Westward Shores to have a host sit there once a month was discussed. Effingham has not put anything in its budget to fund the Lake Host program.
- Bruce suggested talking to Danforth Bay to see if they would welcome a host because they have a high milfoil infestation. Bruce will get contact information for Ned so he can reach out to see if they are interested in having a Lake Host at their ramp. Ned will also have to clear any additional ramps with NH Lakes to ensure they fit the program and are covered for insurance purposes. The additional ramps would be worked into the rotation and covered once a month or so for educational purposes. A list of additional ramps with contact information will be compiled and submitted to Ned by the first of the year.

Weed Removal

- Last year's expenses were reviewed. The total budget spent was \$15,785.31. The budget was overspent by \$785.31, leaving the Milfoil Removal account short \$443.48. The money will come from the Milfoil Gift account to cover the shortage.
- The Milfoil Gift account current balance is \$5,294.98
- 2019 Gift to NH Lakes balance is \$3,750.00.
- Milfoil Non-Capital Fund 12/11/19 value \$6,353.32.

Bids for weed removal reviewed next:

- Solitude bid based on Amy Smagula recommendations- chemical treatment of up to 49 acres with Procellacor EC **Total \$34,508.00** (see attachment for details). Total after the state pays 25%= **\$25,881.00** (percentage could fluctuate).
- **AB, Aquatics INC** bid for diving- \$1,200 for an 8-hour day. Ned said he put the bid out for ten days for diving.
- **Aqualogic- \$920.00** a day with a one-time setup fee of \$100.00 for a **total cost of \$6,9753.00** after 25% state reimbursement.
- **Grand Total of diving and chemical treatment is \$37,106.00 - \$6,000.00 from the reserve fund= \$31,106.00.**
- Other options were discussed, like possibly cutting the diving days to 5 and fundraising.

Gerard made a motion, seconded by Bruce to present \$31,106.00 to the Selectman for the 2020 FAISC budget and withdraw \$6,000 from the Milfoil Non-Capital Fund; Motion passed unanimously.

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Ned did find out that town donations are tax-deductible. Donations should be marked either for town of Freedom-lake host or removal of milfoil and invasive weed to indicate the purpose of the funds. Cards were handed out to committee members to distribute.

Ned could not attend the Ossipee Conservation meeting last night but did send the Chair an e-mail explaining their portion would be \$3,500.00 for the Lake Host Program.

Effingham did not budget for the Lake Host Program because they misunderstood and thought the budget was all set for next year.

The following motions were made to accept the chemical bid and diving bid:

Bruce made a motion, seconded by Gerard to approve Aqua logics proposed bid for diving (the lowest bid); Motion passed unanimously.

Gerard made a motion, seconded by Bill to accept the Solitude proposal for chemical treatments for Danforth Ponds; Motion passed unanimously.

Bruce is still working on the multi-town spreadsheet. The 2018 DASH (Diver Associated Suction Harvesting) report is missing. Ned will see if he can find anything. Bruce will have it done by the end of the year, and it will include all of the information for Freedom, Ossipee, and Effingham regarding expenses and reimbursement from the state. The information will be a tool for future budgeting.

New Business

None

There being no other business to come before the board, **A motion was made by Bill seconded by Gerard to adjourn at 8:25 p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Bolduc, Recording Secretary**