

# *Freedom Aquatic Invasive Species Committee*

11 June 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim McElroy, Ned Kucera, Bill Elliott, Bruce Howlett, and Gerard Constantino

OTHERS PRESENT: One member of public

MINUTES RECORDER: Paul Elie

## **MEETING:**

Chairman Jim McElroy determined a quorum was met and convened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

## **MINUTES:**

Minutes of previous meeting were reviewed and unanimously accepted without change.

## **MILFOIL MITIGATION:**

Jim announced that herbicide treatment is scheduled for the Danforths on 18 June 2015. Milfoil status in Danforth Ponds: lower ó none; middle ó substantial; upper ó several locations. A one day (24 hour) swimming restriction will follow the treatment. Abutters are given advance notification by registered letter and signs are posted along shoreline on the day treatment is performed. Treatment provided by Aquatic Control Technologies (ACT). Divers (New England Milfoil) will be onsite to pull milfoil late June through early July. No permit required for divers and the milfoil plants are composted at Danforth Bay Campground (on a site away from the water). The milfoil plant is 90% water. NHDES performs two milfoil surveys each year (supplemented by local volunteer survey efforts).

## **LAKE HOST PROGRAM:**

Jim explained that the initial grant covered weekends (Sat & Sun) for Lake Hosts to inspect boats and distribute Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) literature at Ossipee Lake Marina (OLM). He then thanked Gerard Costantino for his generous monetary donation (\$4,000) and presented the committee with spreadsheet outlining three scenarios for expanded ramp coverage. After much discussion, Gerard made a motion to add three days to inspection schedule for a total of five days per week during the summer. Motion passed unanimously. Bruce made a motion to possibly hire a second person. Motion passed unanimously. Jim will coordinate with Lake Hosts and ensure the numbers work. Ned displayed a new sandwich board which will be located at various locations (transfer station) in town noting the need for more volunteer Weed Watchers. Bruce volunteered to make a couple of plywood sandwich signs. Ned to contact Lauren Stoddard for display locations during Old Home Week.

## *Lake Host Notes:*

- *Lake Host grant approved by NH Lakes Association for Ossipee Lake Marine site*
- *Bruce suggested adding multiple ramps to 2016 grant application. Jim pointed out that inspection ramps must have public access*
- *Ned asked for updated pictures showing milfoil locations in the bays and presented committee with two laminated pictures*

**WEED WATCHER TRAINING:**

Amy Smagula, NHDES, provided Weed Watcher training to about 10 people at Danforth Bay on 30 June. This event was co-sponsored by the Green Mountain Conservation Group and Ossipee Lake Alliance. Danforth Bay provided the facility free of charge. Five persons from the Berry Bay Association attended and later presented FAISC with a \$200 donation (copy of check shown at meeting).

**FINANCIALS:**

Jim presented handouts to the committee outlining the three financial FAISC accounts, activity, and current balances: Milfoil Removal, Milfoil Grants, and Milfoil Gifts. Bill made a motion to accept the report, Gerard seconded, and motion passed unanimously. The additional \$2 boat registration fees collected in 2015 should be available in 2016. Exact percentage distributed to each community to be determined by NHDES.

**FREEDOM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT:**

Cliff Cabral took his DASH diving boat to the school and demonstrated how milfoil is harvested to the 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Jim helped students make a 11ö x 17ö poster. Posters will be printed, laminated, and distributed. Ned asked if this program could be expanded to other schools. Bill suggested researching DES current efforts in this area. Excellent feedback from teachers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussed many conservation issues various town committees are currently working. Cliff Cabral's DASH boat will be in the OHW parade.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Member of community expressed e-mail concerns about milfoil on the river. Jim will follow up and encouraged the community to e-mail milfoil questions, concerns, and pictures to the Town of Freedom which will be forwarded to the FAISC sub-email account.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

Bill made the motion to adjourn which passed immediately and unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:30.