



Lake Oversight Committee

July 20, 2021 Minutes

Attendees: Lynn Johnson (Co-Chair, Secretary), Dawn Kamay (Assistant Secretary), Sam Spratlin (Conservation), Clelland Johnson (BOS), Bob Kamay (FHRA)

Absent: Dori Ference (Planning Board), Doug Cayer (Temporary Chair)

Quorum: Yes

Guests: Christine McCooe, Dominic Meringolo (Solitude)

Meeting was called to order by Lynn Johnson at 6:31pm

Deferred discussion related to Correspondence and voicemail and Minutes approval to later in the meeting.

Old Business:

Weed Treatment

Discuss Concerns with 2021 Weed Treatment (Dominic from Solitude)
June – December 2021 - BOS voted to accept Solitude Proposal

We were joined by Dominic Meringolo from Solitude to discuss 2021 Milfoil treatment in Connecticut as well as upcoming treatment for Water Shield and Tape Grass.

- Solitude has received approval from State of Connecticut to perform the weed treatment on Connecticut portion of Hamilton Reservoir. This was a modified permit. Original was a 3-year permit to use Diquat. The amended permit allows the change from Diquat to ProcellaCOR®
- Solitude has not received approval on new permit request to treat the private pond located in Union CT.
- ProcellaCOR® treatment (for Milfoil) on the CT portion of Hamilton Reservoir is scheduled for August 2, 2021. This chemical is effective through the end of August. It loses some effectiveness as we move into September.
- Evaluation surveys for Milfoil, Tape Grass and Water Shield have been completed by Solitude Biologist. Dominic will forward survey maps. We had originally set a Tape Grass treatment date of July 28th. Notification will be difficult with this short timeline, so this treatment will be

pushed out to August 2nd. Posting must be complete by July 28. Sam will notify Becky to send out code red. FHRA will send email.

- Historically Solitude's proposal include pricing to treat the entire lake for Milfoil but provides a per-acre estimate for the other weeds. Dominic explained that this is best practice as Milfoil is so pervasive and needs to be treated broadly, but other weeds are treated based on areas that have issues. They try to limit treatment to areas where weeds are impacting boating and swimming.
- We will announce date for Water Shield treatment at upcoming members meeting.
- Bob shared pictures of tape grass debris that washed up on shore at the North Basin and questioned whether this could have been caused by the Milfoil treatment. Dominic does not feel this is likely. The chemical we used would not have this type of result. Boats or Jet skis could cause this type of result. Bob will reach out and see if this is continuing to occur.
- Water Shield is a native plant and treatment is intended to remove the growth from swimming and boating areas. This treatment will be applied on August 2nd.
- Discussed issues reported by one resident that felt the previous Fanwort treatment was too aggressive as it adversely affected the Lily Pads near his home. Dominic explained that the treatment is critical to keep the Fanwort under control. The effect on the Lily Pads is temporary; good news is that it will grow back.
- Bob asked for more details about water testing. Recent proposal included a description of the details of the various levels that are measured. Examples Include PH, Alkalinity, Nitrogen, Phosphorus, bacteria, etc. It is good to have a long-term understanding of the lake over time. Historically, we have chosen to perform this testing every two years. Dom will look for previous test results.
- January- June 2022 – Discussed Options for Milfoil Treatment for 2022 – We will wait and see how effective ProcellaCOR® is at controlling Milfoil. Bob obtained a presentation that was produced by Lake Lashaway. They received proposals from Habitat, Lake and Pond Connection and Solitude. It turns out that Solitude and Lake and Pond Connection were Identical in price. Solitude was not selected due to issues with responsiveness. Lake Lashaway is similar in size to Hamilton Reservoir.
- Timing for 2022. LOC needs to send out RFP, review proposals and provide a recommendation to the Select Board by mid-February, so budget request can be submitted to Finance Board by the end of February.

The Dam

Inspection and Vegetation Clean-up

Bob and Doug were at the inspection. They expect a Fair Rating. Things have not changed dramatically since previous inspections. They both felt the time spent was worthwhile. Bottom-line is that the DEP is happy with any effort spent on this inspection process. Inspection is required every 2 years. They mentioned that the vegetation needs to be addressed and Clelland shared that there is money in the budget if we need to engage an outside resource to take over this responsibility. Bob suggested getting some quotes from Landscape companies. The vegetation should be removed each Autumn after drawdown.

Inspector also told Bob that grant money is available if we find a repair is needed. It is possible to obtain 75% of the cost of the repair including repairs on sluice gate. We can arrange for an engineering firm to perform the work, or we could reach out to Rodney Hunt the vendor that supplied the sluice gate.

Emergency Action Plan

Clelland has updated Calling Tree and downstream resident information. He has turned this electronic document over to LOC and suggested that this group take responsibility for keeping it updated. It should be reviewed and updated annually.

Next steps on securing an Operations Manual –

Everyone agreed it is time to send RFQ to engage an engineering firm to write an Operations Manual with best practice info about lowering the water level to prepare for storms, etc. Clelland shared info about wireless monitors that could be installed at the dam to measure and report on water level. This information could be used to improve the way we respond to upcoming storms. Note: 1.5 inches of rain is 11.5 million gallons. Drawdown achieves about 2 inches per a day when drawing is on-going. Bob will request a proposal from Fuss & Oneil.

Budget

Current - There is \$4500 in the annual budget for dam maintenance. (\$875 spent)

Lynn found \$13000 in the budget reports. This money originated from annual town meeting article (22) in 2017. It is not known what this money was intended for. This money can only be used for the purpose outlined in this article. Lynn will send email to Stacy asking if she can find out about this article.

Approve Minutes:

Clelland shared information uncovered by Stacy related to approval of minutes. Secretary of state is more interested in transparency than they about making sure there is a quorum of those present at the original meeting. So although you need a quorum, the individuals did not need to be at the original meeting.

- March 16, 2021 minutes – Sam made motion to accept the minutes, Bob seconded. All in favor - Sam, yes; Bob, yes; Dawn, yes; Clelland, yes; Lynn, yes.
- April 6, 2021 minutes – Sam made motion to accept the minutes, Bob seconded. All in favor - Sam, yes; Bob, yes; Dawn, yes; Clelland, yes; Lynn, yes.

- June 1, 2021 minutes – Sam made motion to accept the minutes, Bob seconded. All in favor - Sam, yes; Bob, yes; Dawn, yes; Clelland, yes; Lynn, yes.

Correspondence and voicemail.

No mail, email or voicemail messages to discuss.

New Business: None

Other Items:

Catch Basin – Discussed report recently distributed by Highway department – Group is uncertain if the report lists all catch basins or just those that have been cleaned since the last report. Reports are distributed quarterly.

Items covered during open discussion

- How are they cleaned out? Bob thought it was a clam shell, which is an old technology.
- Is material taken away? Some believe that the debris is left next to the catch basin.
- Could we outsource the clean out of the catch basin?
- Which belong to town and which are on private roads?
- Residents are responsible for catch basins on private roads
- On Catch Basin Report - Listed by longitude and latitude – Joanne and has added street name.
- Can we identify which catch basins and dirt roads are having the worst impact on the lake?
- We will focus on this topic at our next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:59

- Bob made a motion to close the meeting at 7:59. Dawn seconded. All in favor. -Sam, yes; Bob, yes; Dawn, yes; Clelland, yes; Lynn, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Johnson, Secretary