



TOWN OF NORTON

Water Bodies

(Committee)

MINUTES

Date: November 18, 2013

Time: 7 PM

Location: Town Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

Members & Staff Present: David Lennon, Brian Brady, Colleen Ryan, Mark Burgess, Joe McFarland, Carol Zwicker, Dave Henry, Conservation Chairman, Mark Briggs, Speaker, Nick Adams, sub-committee member

Members Not Present: Herb Ellison

The meeting was called to order at: 7 PM

Minutes from the October 21, 2013 Meeting were reviewed and Approved with no adjustments.

Meeting Motions / Actions and Summary of Discussions

Joe McFarland made motion to accept minutes as read, Brian Brady 2nd motion.

Brian Brady summed up joint meeting pertaining to Water Bodies for committee. Selectmen will talk to Town Manager to see if it is possible to forgo RFQ and do a one on one for water bodies so the WBC can move ahead.

Nick discussed what contacts and information he had previously gotten as a non-member.

Dave Henry said work on dam will cost thousands of dollars, and because elevations differ at the dam, work may not proceed.

Mark Briggs questioned if Norton is ready to undertake certain things. He said much can be done but if Town doesn't comply it is futile. He stated that Leominster has a storm water by-law in place to stop waste water runoff to catch basin/storm drains.

Separating watershed from lakes is important to start 1st step of putting together a plan for lakes and pond management. Water shed is much more intensive and runoff does come from the water shed but can involve other Towns and more time. It is critical to start treatment as soon as possible to prevent further evasive weed damage.

Drawdown cannot be significant as it will do more harm. Should be done slowly, about 1" per day, start around 3rd week in September, that will give critters/fish to relocate. Depth should be 18' but a good pool of 15' deep will give fish a chance to hunker down for winter. DEP frowns on anything beyond 3'-5', at 5' we will need to demonstrate refill capacity. Drawdown may not have residual capacity to hold over. Drawdown and a herbicide treatment works together but if depth is not right chemicals are best to use. With drawdown we want the ground around to freeze and dry out after 1st hard frost. Can start to refill

Lycott is leader in chemical treatment in N.E.

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Sonar can be a problem as boats can move liquid and in order to work it must stay in same spot. Sonar is good for milfoil but need to demonstrate pool for fish. Water chestnuts can be controlled with hand picking but if blooms or nuts fall to the bottom they can imbed in the sediment and resurface even years later. Can harvest and use herbicides together. Diquat is illegal because of the residual effect. When weeds die down they suck the oxygen out of the water when dying. Need to watch for 'donut affect' (ring of weeds) with drawdown. Clipper has been tested and used in Connecticut and Rhode Island, Mass wants to wait another year to study impact on mussels.

Lake Associations can work independent of Town so they can check out more and seek more information. Town water can be listed as having evasive species and impaired water in the State which can be beneficial to getting grants. 319 grant will address water quality proof in watershed. Sewer leaks, septic system leaks, cesspool leaks need to be watched for. Benthic barriers are not effective. Natural straw and grass suffocates weeds because it sets there.

Check potential for dredging and piling up sediment on side. Check excavating to deepen area for a pool. Dredging is long term solution but is expensive.

Before WBC does anything we need DEP approval and go thru the Conservation Commission. Ownership of water body must be confirmed. What is not understood is that the blue-green algae can cause severe problems. Problems can arise because often no follow up and monitoring is put in place.

*Management plan must fit the individual water body, herbicide is a necessity. WBC needs to **foster support** from Selectmen, Town Manager, residents. Need to **educate the community**. **Very important to get the message out**. Check to see it is possible to use part of the boat excise taxes for maintaining lakes.*

319 grants are available but must demonstrate a need. Storm water runoff is a real basic need to investigate. DEP dedicator will respond to a solid plan.

***Reminder** COLAP conference is at Clarke University January 25, 2014.*

David Lennon issued listing for the Town Report.

Dave will call Chris re: lake assessment survey from 2007.

Conclusion is groups like lakes and ponds together to work with.

Brian made motion to adjourn. Dave Lennon 2nd motion.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35 until the next meeting on Monday , December 16 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

*Minutes Approved by Committee on: _____
(Date)*

Signatures:

(Name & Title)

Chairman, _____
(committee)