



**TOWN OF
BROOKLINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Conservation Commission

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Minutes
Conservation Commission
Tuesday May 8, 2012
7:00pm

Present: **Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman (voting)**
 Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt, Vice-Chair, Member (voting)
 Jay Chrystal, Member (voting)

Absent: **Evangelos (Evan) Gerekos, Member and Eric DiVirgilio, Alternate,**

Meeting Start at 7:30 PM

Milfoil

Buddy signed both Aquatic Controls contracts for milfoil treatments; One is for Lake Potanipo the total contract amount is \$8,900 for the treatment of 15 acres, the other is contract is for Melendy Pond for a total of \$6,375 for treating 8.3 acres.

Weed Watchers

Buddy said Amy Smagula (DES) will be down this month to check the status of milfoil at Lake Potanipo. **Buddy** asked that Kristen get in touch with the Weed Watchers and have them take a quick check around and mark any milfoil with buoys so the divers know where to start pulling.

Asian Clams (New Fresh Water Threat)

Jay told the Board about asian clams, a new threat to fresh water. They are small clams averaging less than 1.5 inches in size. They can release 2,000-8,000 offspring a year and can self fertilize. They will cluster in groups of 5,000 per square meter. Juvenile clams are so small that they can get drawn into a boat engine even through a strainer and cause overheating or can damage the boat engine. Large groups of the asian clams can severely alter lake or river food by directly competing with existing native fish and shellfish species for food and space. They have no known predator and there is no treatment for them at this time. They have been located in New Hampshire at Cobbetts Pond in Windham and at the Merrimack River (from Bow, south). **Buddy** said they should get this information to the Lake Host Program for this spring so they know what to look for. **Jay** said this information is available on the DES website.

Handicap Accessible Trails

Buddy said there is a new law regarding the accessibility of trails to handicapped people. We will need to review the new law and create a policy as to what kind of motorized vehicles will be allowed on the Brookline trails.

Snowmobiler of the Year Award

Buddy said Amos White received the Snowmobiler of the year award from the Snowmobilers Association of New Hampshire.

Trail Mapping

Buddy said Evan has dropped off the GPS information to Jordan Bailey. Evan has gone over a lot of the trails.

Trail Hike

Buddy said Milford would like to have a co-hike with Brookline in September. He said Milford is running out of places to have hikes.

Buddy said he would like to schedule a hike on the new trail that leads from Ben Farnsworths Road to Dupaw Gould Road, from Bohanon Ball Field (located on Oak Hill Road) to CSDA, and in June would like to schedule a walk from Cider Mill to the Rookery.

Canoe Trip

Buddy said about 18 people attended the canoe trip this year. We may want to advertise in the Globe and reach out further. We just don't have the amount of people in attendance like we used to.

Forest Management

Jay said they should look into designating the 4 largest conservation lots in town as Town Forest and create a Town Forest Management Fund. If this is done it limits the Board of Selectmen's ability to make decisions in regards to these areas and the fund that will need to be established to maintain the areas. This decision will have to be made at Town Meeting. All Town Forest decisions will fall to the Conservation Commission. All money received for cutting goes right back into the Forest Management fund. This will be a non-lapsing fund. The only time they can remove money from it would be at Town Meeting. That gives the townspeople more of the decision making opportunity. **Buddy** said he thought Merrimack has Town Forest Land. We should look into it. **Therry** said it sounds like a great proposal. **Jay** said he will talk to some people in Merrimack and find out more information.

Jay made a motion to adjourn at 8:30pm. Therry seconded. Vote yes 3-0.

Francis (Buddy) Dougherty, Chairman _____

Therry Neilsen-Steinhardt, Vice-Chair _____

Jay Chrystal, Member _____

Minutes submitted by Kristen Austin
Next meeting will be held on June 12, 2012