



TOWN OF
NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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Meeting Minutes
New London Conservation Commission
May 4, 2010

PRESENT:

Andy Deegan, Member, Chair
Vicki Koron, Member
Bob Brown, Member
Dan Allen, Member
Terri Dancy, Alternate

ALSO PRESENT:

Peter Stanley, Staff, Acting Recording Secretary
Ron Koron, Little Sunapee PA
Carol Foss, Little Sunapee PA
John Wilson, Pleasant Lake PA
Kitty Wilson, Pleasant Lake PA
Dick Clayton, Pleasant Lake PA
Terri Bingham, Messer Pond PA

Chair Deegan called the meeting to order at 10:30 and again, Alternate Dancy to act on behalf of Member Ruth (Sue) Clough, who was unable to attend.

Milfoil Fund Disbursement Recommendations: Chair Deegan explained that \$18,500 has been appropriated again this year (2010) for milfoil prevention. He went on to say that this years appropriation uses all of the remaining milfoil capital reserve funds and that the program has not been funded for two straight years. He said that the Lake Associations should actively collaborate to encourage adequate funding of the program in the future, given that there is unlikely to be any future state funding available. Chair Deegan concluded by stating that the Commission had voted in their earlier meeting to disburse the \$18,500 milfoil prevention funds exactly as had been done in 2009.

John Wilson objected to that method of disbursement because the Pleasant Lake program is larger and more effort is expended in their milfoil prevention program.

Bob Brown commented that of the three funding scenarios proposed by the PLPA, using the same distribution as last year produces a roughly equivalent funding for PLPA as scenario "C" and that they were the only group getting

about what they requested. He further stated that there simply wasn't enough money to meet the needs of all of the groups.

Chair Deegan reiterated Mr. Brown's remarks and suggested that the Lake Associations collaborate on a warrant article for next year's Town Meeting.

Terri Dancy commented that Messer Pond and Little Sunapee were at greater risk for the consequences of an infestation of milfoil because of their relatively shallow depth.

Ron Koron commented that all of the Lake Associations justify their expenditures. Dick Clayton asked how Little Sunapee arrived at their numbers. Carol Foss said it was based on labor hours paid. Dick Clayton commented that we can't get into a situation where we are just trying to out-estimate each other - we need to be using the actual hours from the year before. Carol Foss said that wouldn't be fair because the year before had had many cancelations because of weather.

Kitty Wilson commented that they [the Commission] were just pitting one group against another.

Bob Brown opined that we should be looking at all the resources of the various groups, including membership, cash, etc.

Carol Foss said that their letter requests \$6249 in 2010. Terri Dancy responded that the actual letter requests \$7913. Carol said that she had made an error in the letter and that the actual request was \$6249.

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| A summary of the requests is: | Lake Sunapee | \$5000 |
| | PLPA | \$6488 |
| | Little Sunapee | \$6249 |
| | Messer Pond | \$3470 |
| | Total | \$21,207 |

Terri Bingham commented that we were not likely to see any contribution from the NH Lakes Association next year, so this will only get worse.

John Wilson Commented that the last couple of years had been difficult, but that next year there would be some contribution to the program proposed by the Budget Committee next year. Chair Deegan asked how much, but John Wilson said he did no know.

Dick Clayton said that the disbursement should be based on actuals and not ones ability to ask.

Ron Koron commented that the "Big Lake" was penalized the most [with the proposed apportionment]. A general discussion of the Lake Sunapee program ensued, along with how the money was actually used. Terri Dancy said that the money was used for "containment" as opposed to the Lake Host program and that they won't fit the "model" for comparison purposes if the funds are used differently.

Kitty Wilson offered that the CC should develop a formula for the process.

Dick Clayton asked how many hours Little Sunapee was requesting funding for. Carol Foss responded that there were 683 hours paid ramp time. Dick Clayton countered that Pleasant Lake staffed 944 hours. Carol Foss responded that the total Little Sunapee program included 788 hours at the ramp, including volunteer time.

There was a series of general discussion and comments regarding hours, risks, time spent, the affects of weather and general back and forth.

Chair Deegan commented that no one seems to be particularly happy with the system as it currently function and the CC needs input prior to the next round of requests.

Following a question by John Wilson about how the NH Lakes Association distributes funds, there was a general discussion about the process, when deposits were required and when payments were made, etc.

Terri Bingham commented that we all would like to man our launch ramps as thoroughly as the PLPA, but we don't have the money. We simply put in for an amount that seems practical under the circumstances. She also commented that the NH Lakes Association needs the money up front now.

Vicki Koron commented that all of the Lake Associations have studied carefully and have made thoughtful requests. This year's decision was made based on fairness, and next year we hope to have a formula for the process, as well as enough money.

Ron Koron commented that an estimate of the hours needed to adequately staff each of the launch ramps is what the distribution should be based on.

Kitty Wilson asked to have the decision criteria be written as part of this year's CC recommendation to the Board of Selectmen.

Bob Brown reiterated that the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen was to use last year's disbursement amounts, with the understanding that next year there will be a formula and a letter of invitation to apply for funds in a timeframe that will afford an opportunity for more input to the budget process.

John Wilson asked why were we here, if you have already made up your minds?

Terri Dancy responded that everyone was here to provide input to the process for future.

Vicki Koron made a motion to adjourn; the motion was seconded by Dan Allen (I think) and the meeting was adjourned at 11:33AM

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Stanley, Acting Recording Secretary