

LAKE MASPENOCK WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL
ADVISORY CITIZEN INPUT TEAM

Draft Minutes September 23, 2021 via Zoom

In attendance;

John Westerling, DPW Director

David Mitchell, Limnologist Consultant

Jeff Barnes, Con. Comm.

Eric Sonnet, Co-Chair

Joe Baldiga, Chair

Cynthia Esthimer, Secretary

Spencer Loveland, Resident

Absent;

Drew Logan

1. The Chair opened the meeting at 5:33.
2. The August 18, 2021 minutes were approved unanimously as written.
3. Conservation Commissioners Jeff Barnes, Melissa Reyes and Ed Harrow joined Joe Baldiga and Cynthia Esthimer on the morning of August 28 to survey a few of the targeted zones that the Advisory Group monitors in the spring and late summer. Conditions of a glare on the surface, end of season die-off of submerged plants and murky water post rain storms created a bit of challenge to view the vegetation. We viewed primarily tape grass and long leaf pondweed in the north basin and along shorelines. A Downey St. resident was observed raking up amounts of washed up weeds along the shore. The unusual high water level was noted as 8"-10" higher than normal. The weeds had not broken the surface.
4. Discussion of the September 10, 2021 Lake Survey focused on two basic subjects.
 - A. Overall density of weed growth is increasing and weeds are encroaching to new areas.
 - If no management occurs, eutrophication will continue to fill in more areas. Tape grass is one example of previous trace findings that have bloomed and encroached into new areas, including the boat ramp and edges of the swimming area.
 - Dave Mitchell presented the updated Aquatic Vegetation Survey Results. He was not present for the survey and had to rely on our reporting. There are a few depth discrepancies of depth because the boat was moving in the wind.
 - Should some targeted areas be dropped from surveys in favor of looking at new areas? Further discussion required.
 - Eurasian milfoil seems to have declined this year, perhaps making way for tape grass to bloom.
 - The 2020-2021 winter extended drawdown may have helped knock down the milfoil (an invasive species).
 - What might happen if no management occurs in dense areas?

- Without management, will Lake Maspenock begin to fill in as Ice House Pond and Lake Whitehall have?
 - The Advisory Group voted unanimously to have Dave Mitchell work with John Westerling to take first steps to filing a NOI with the Con. Comm.
- B. The second discussion focused on public education and participation as key elements to protecting the lake's resources.
- The Public Informational Meeting in the Library two or so years ago was well attended with approximately 70 people in favor of potential use of herbicide treatment, with approximately 11 expressing concerns about herbicide safety. We may do another meeting to delve more into the science and facts and to dispel irrational fears in the event that herbicide use is a potential best option.
 - The Advisory Group shared frustration with some people who stated publicly that they would pull weeds by hand but did not participate in any constructive or helpful way. How can they be engaged more constructively? How to more clearly speak to the science and dispel mistruths and exaggerations based on fear?
 - Should the Advisory Group approach Con. Comm. with more scientific data?
5. Spencer Loveland spoke as a resident on the other side of W Main St. He appreciates the efforts of the Group. He asked if treatment would benefit his area? It would not, but the Advisory Group agreed to look into adding a zone on that side.
6. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Esthimer