

LAKE MASPENOCK WEED
MANAGEMENT AND ADVISORY CIG

Minutes October 28, 2021

In attendance:

John Westerling, DPW Director

Joseph Baldiga, Chair

Eric Sonnett, Vice Chair

Cynthia Esthimer, Secretary

Jeff Barnes, Conservation Committee

Present by phone:

David Mitchell, Limnologist Consultant

Absent:

Drew Logan

1. Joe Baldiga called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.
2. September 23, 2021 minutes were unanimously approved as written.
3. Dave Mitchell discussed a "Watershed Management Programs" packet of information he distributed to the group prior to this meeting. Of particular focus was the section regarding the denial of the NOI by the Hopkinton Conservation Committee in the spring of 2020. Important points for discussion and areas for improvement were;
 - Insufficient information regarding the significance of ecological change from the co-dominance of two non-indigenous plants to one native plant that flourished
 - Degree of negative impact to the fishery and habitat
 - Potential of change of Lake Maspenock from mesotrophic to eutrophic state
 - Need to emphasize that the CIG's proposed management strategy minimized adverse impact based on best practices of watershed management
4. Following that discussion, Dave reported that he had spoken to Hopkinton's new Conservation Agent. She is familiar with aquatic weed issues, has the CIG's recent report, and may lend guidance on filing a NOI.
5. Strategies for public education and buy in should include a balanced of pro herbicide and con herbicide points of view with a focus on science and safety. Eric stressed that public education should include a focused effort to gather support for treatment, should it be necessary. Eric pointed out that Natick and Framingham had a similar need to treat aquatic vegetation and that we should consult with them. Locating Fish and Wildlife specialists, Health Agents, and other professionals may be helpful to provide information at a public forum. Joe encouraged another public forum as soon as possible. The group discussed how to best accomplish this (Zoom, in person, hybrid). Drew would be an excellent spokesperson.
6. Action items include;
 - Cyn will contact Hopkinton, Natick and Framingham Health Directors
 - Dave will reformat and update our previous public forum presentation
 - Joe will ask Drew to do the presentation
 - Jeff will study the Watershed Stewardship Program
7. Next meeting will be at 5:00 PM, December 2, 2021 in person at the DPW.
8. Meeting was adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Esthimer