



Town of Middleton

182 Kings Highway, Middleton, New Hampshire 03887

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Sunrise Lake Watershed Advisory Committee

September Meeting Minutes Sunrise Lake Watershed Advisory Committee September 26th, 2024

Note: The September Meeting was rescheduled due to availability of members and was held on October 3rd, 2024.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Present were Chairman John Mullen, Vice Chair Dave Miller (remote), Members Kate Buzard, Judy Larivee and Cindy DeCristofaro. Clerk/Member Joni van Gelder was present and recorded the minutes.

Housekeeping (Clerk): The clerk mentioned that the subscription for Microsoft 365 will renew in December. No vote was taken, but members present were in favor of renewing. The clerk has subscribed to Adobe Editor for personal use and suggested that if it is used in SLWAC business that she will add it as in kind for the monthly summaries. A reminder that the November and December meetings are the third Thursday of the month, rather than the 4th Thursday, because of the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. The clerk will not be attending the November meeting due to travel, the Chairman will either take the minutes or assign someone to do so.

Financial Report (Budget Update). The Chairman had presented a detailed financial report that included a breakdown of all expenses and receivables as well as a statement showing Budgeted versus Actual Statements. It was agreed that this information is extremely helpful for purposes of budgeting, audits, and/or responding to any inquiries from the public. The Chair noted that he will continue to keep the detailed report for the reasons noted above but for purposes of the monthly meetings will return to the original format.

Review of Meeting Minutes: With no discussion a motion was made to approve both the July 24th and July 25th meeting minutes as written (Miller/Larivee).

Cyanobacteria Update: It was noted that the State issues warnings and advisories and have an extensive email list that receive notifications. Among those is the Health Officer for the Town of Middleton. It was decided that any formal notification should come from the Health Officer, and if individuals want to comment on forums like Facebook, it is as an individual, not as an official committee notice. Recently a visitor who was renting an Air BnB property asked about the notification process, and while the owners of rental properties (whether it is short or long term) are not legally required to notify their tenants, as a practical matter it would be courteous to let the renters know. There is no obligation on the part of this committee to communicate or govern in these situations.

VLAP: The recent results of the VLAP testing were reviewed. It was noted that one area could not be tested because of “no flow” in that brook. The high numbers of e coli around the Lakelands Drainage Ditch were of particular concern, but it is possible that the lack of water flow created a false reading. The clerk asked if that ditch is the area that is part of the Grant and it is, so the corrective action planned for that area may also favorably impact those readings.

Milfoil: it was noted that there are 2 invoices for milfoil mitigation that have been submitted but have not yet been paid. Those expenses are paid from the Expendable Trust Fund.

Old Home Day Outreach: There was little traffic to the display during Old Home Day as most people were focused on getting to the luncheon. This will probably not be an event that will be included in the 2025 outreach.

Grant Update: The grant has been signed, and the first phase of the process is beginning. Although ultimately the State selects the vendors and the bids, now that it is in the hands of SRP, they will work on creating an RFQ for components such as recommending a PE, etc. To that, Strafford Regional Planning is looking for input from this committee and will attend the October meeting (October 24th) so that we can discuss next steps, and what specific tasks this committee can do to proactively support the process. The Chair will invite Town Officials such as the BOS, Road Agent, to the meeting so that all points of view and be incorporated into the discussion. The clerk suggested that it may be good to announce the October meeting will include this discussion so that any interested members of the public can attend.

Future Events: It was decided that the upcoming craft fair in November will not be one that this committee uses as an outreach. It was suggested that members come to the November meeting prepared to make suggestions for events the committee should participate in for 2025. Doing an additional mailer was also discussed, to be mailed before the year-end. Clerk noted that the framework for the mailer has been done and it would be less work to use the same layout as the previous mailer, just update the content.

Member Comments: Cindy DeCristofaro suggested that over the winter the committee should work on updating the display boards. She also suggested recruitment of new members should be part of our outreach, and that recruitment should include attracting new members of various ages and backgrounds. Looking at schools/colleges with coursework on environmental sciences may yield candidates that will be a win/win situation for both. The clerk asked if we need to submit a proposed budget for 2025 and as we are currently a subcommittee of Conservation, our budget requests will go to them.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:25 (Miller/DeCristofaro)

Respectfully Submitted

Joni van Gelder, Clerk