

**Beseck Lake Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 24, 2024**

Present: Rick Santos, Lisa McCabe, Aleta Cromac, Hannah Malcom, Bob Yarmartino, Craig Lundell

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Call to order	Meeting opened at 7:05pm	
Approval of minutes	Minutes of last meeting September 27, 2023 reviewed. Hannah made a motion to approve minutes. Craig seconded. All agreed.	
Public comment	No public present for comment.	
Status of herbicide treatment	Update on All Habitat Herbicide Treatment: CAES plant survey will need to be completed as required. Greg Bugbee has agreed to perform this as he did pre-treatment. This will be performed in June 2024 and result submitted to NDDB	
Drawdown concerns	<p>6-foot drawdown has not yet been achieved for 2023-2024 Further there has been a record amount of precipitation, keeping lake levels elevated. Also, we have not had the freeze we need to kill the roots of invasive plant life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curly-leaf pondweed is susceptible to drawdown. But with the less-than-optimal drawdown, we may have an issue with this invasive late summer. • We may also have an issue now with blue green algae as well <p>Bob Yamartino will reach out to DEEP for guidance on how to request a 6-foot drawdown next year. He will also include a contact from the fisheries to keep them in the loop, as they are generally not supportive of 6-foot drawdowns.</p> <p>Bob also asked about removal of areas of silt accumulation, noting the silt likely traps phosphorus. This would likely have to be done during a 6-foot drawdown. He will inquire with DEEP as well.</p>	

<p>New initiatives</p>	<p>New Initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harmful algal blooms prevention strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A good preventive measure is to reduce phosphorus leaching into the lake. EutroSORB filter bags are a good option to filter out the phosphorus from runoff flowing into inlet areas of the lake. The filter bags will be placed at (4) inlet areas and replaced each month over the season, at a total cost of ~\$11K. • Water levels of phosphorus will be tested (at 6 locations) along with Water Quality and Algae sampling (5 samples May-September). Testing will gather data to see if there has been a preventive effect. • We can also look at something to likewise address the issue of nitrates getting into the lake. 2. Curly Leaf Pondweed (<i>Potamogeton crispus</i>) is another lake invasive aquatic plant effecting our Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current, best approach that will not harm native plants is an effective 6-foot drawdown and a good freeze. 	
<p>DEEP grant</p>	<p>DEEP Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rick is working on a new submission of the grant • Ongoing water quality testing of lake, with phosphorus and algae testing comes to \$13, 750 • Addressing blue green algae <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ prevention with phosphorus filter bags- \$11,800 and ○ treatment with Green Clean Pro products above and below water level - \$5K, \$6K) • Application due at the end of January 	<p>Rick will continue working on the grant application and submit to Beth Moncata for review/ signature.</p>
<p>All Habitat Water Quality Report</p>	<p>Report notable for elevated levels of E coli. Differences exist in levels at north end location v. south end location, and with testing performed at the beach.</p>	<p>Rick will clarify procedures, and differences in the results with All Habitat testing. He will also</p>

	Results from separate testing at the beach (done by the Park and Rec dept) have been below levels of concern. June 2022 was the last time there was an elevated E coli that prompted beach closure.	inquire as to why we were not made aware of the results before now. Hannah will contact the Public Health Department to gather further information.
New member recruitment	A call for new members will be placed in the town newsletter, <i>Friends of the Lake</i> Facebook page	
Selectman report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob reported that there was damage to the culvert related to large volume water runoff during heavy precipitation. He has spoken to the engineering firm that did the original work regarding design and repair. The cost will run in the range of \$20K. Bob told the firm he would pursue a claim through their insurance. • Board of Selectmen will be putting out a quarterly newsletter to keep the community informed. First edition will go out in February. It will include committee/council updates. • Bob discussed properties owned by the town that could be available for sale v. development v. conservation. He also identified issues with the Coginchaug River overflowing, resulting in road closures, that it would behoove the town to address. He has spoken to Rosa DeLauro regarding available grants to use for this purpose. • Bob was aggressive with investing funds to grow a healthy reserve while interest rates were higher. Careful re-evaluation of costs for investments v. income has resulted in additional savings. • A new renovation is planned for the firehouse, including a new roof. He has also inquired into grants available for a new firehouse, but our small town is considered a suburb of Meriden by federal guidelines and does not qualify. • The town is pursuing a grant for renovating the community center kitchen. 	
Spring and summer initiatives	Need to address the issue of the geese, which may be contributing to lake E coli	
Other business	Committee Report for Selectmen Newsletter <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on chemicals that discharge into the lake 	Lisa and Craig will work on this and give to Rick for editing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update on committee and recruitment of new members	
Adjournment	Craig made a motion to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm	

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa McCabe