

**Lake Beseck Environment Committee
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 26, 2023**

Present: Rick Santos, Lisa McCabe, Hannah Malcom, Aleta Cromac, Jim Irish (at end of meeting)

Topic/Agenda Item	Discussion	Action
Opening	Meeting opened at 7:06pm Minutes reviewed. Hannah made a motion to approve minutes. Lisa seconded. All agreed.	
Public comment	Kathy Cruteau: Q: It appears that the weeds in the lake are best managed when the lake draw down is 6 feet v. 3 feet A: Rick explained that it would require legislative action to change the current process. An appeal was presented to legislators last year but not approved. The year prior, the legislation was changed to extend the timeframe for the 6 foot drawn down from end of December to end of January.	
Status of herbicide treatment by All Habitat	There has been positive feedback regarding the decrease in the milfoil. The DEEP was not happy about us closing the boat ramp. Will not be able to do this in the future.	
New Initiatives	Harmful algae blooms and possible prevention strategies and solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Run off into the lake from watershed is supporting growth of blue green algae ● There are several potential treatments, but a starting point is prevention ● Can start testing areas of runoff near farm and nursery ● Microcystin testing continues at the beach to monitor for toxins ● All Habitat can perform water testing; cost for testing is a little more than AER but the report is a little less <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hannah made motion to have All Habitat start to perform testing. ○ Aleta seconded ○ All agreed 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years ago there was a program educating the community about the effect of chemicals and organic debris getting into the lake • Need once again look at what can be done to educate community on how best to safely fertilize lawns, set standards • Recommended by All Habitat: EutroSorb is a filter bag product that allows water to run through it and absorbs phosphorus • Another older solution is using aeration. New technology in bubble where micro bubbles are infused into the water instead of fountains to produce an effect in just a few days. • Another solution is to plant vegetative buffers on properties around the lake to intercept runoff into the lake <p>Curly-leaf Pondweed is another aquatic invasive species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All plants are not necessarily weeds. We want to protect the native “good” plants, but address the invasive plants/weeds. • Pondweed is the first weed we see in the water, May-June. • Need to find a product that will kill the pondweed, yet protect the P. vasyai. • Treatment needs to be done in April, before the plant has a chance to “seed” for next year. • Rick spoke to Greg Bugbee, who sent Rick papers on treatments • Current treatments for pondweed are more likely to affect fish, so we need to be mindful of approaches we pursue <p>Permit process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Habitat can make amendments to our current permit for additional products/processes to address the algae and other unwanted invasive species in our lake. Lisa made a motion for All Habitat to start working on such amendments. Aleta seconded. All agreed. 	<p>Can look into possible grant for using this product</p>
<p>Speed limit sign</p>	<p>The sign was installed at Lakeview Estates on Sunday. It is very tall (~8 feet), and with bare wood backing, stands out in the cleared area in which it was installed. It is requested that the sign be lowered, painted to make it less obvious.</p>	<p>Lisa will meet with the rest of the HOA board and create a letter to the Lake Beseck Environment Committee outlining specific requests to make the sign more esthetically acceptable.</p>

	There is one more sign left to install. Rover's would be an ideal location.	Craig will follow up
Selectman's report: Jim Irish	<p>The town survey has now had 230 responses. The results will be analyzed with a ratio of agrees to disagrees and rank accordingly.</p> <p>Public hearings coming up for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments and changes to town charter (which has not happened since 1994). Date is August 1 and will be published in Middletown Press and town website. There will be several questions for people to vote on. • Adoption of renewal of our cell tower lease. Lease is up in 2024; we need to vote now so if it does not pass, SBC will have time to make other arrangements. We are being offered \$2.2M for a 50-year lease. This money can be invested for future projects. There is a FAQ sheet on the town website. Date is August 8 and will also be published in newspaper and town website. Town people will need to vote on this. <p>New people in Town Office</p> <p>Beth Moncata is new finance director. Knows a lot of people, systems, information for the job. Kim Garvis also left Durham town clerk offices and is now the new assistant town clerk. She started this week. She was a mentor to Tonya, who is now the Town Clerk.</p> <p>Jerry Russ has resigned as zoning enforcement officer and</p> <p>Our current town planner Robin Tish Land use officer position remains vacant. There are 20 towns looking to fill this position. To replace facilities manager, the selectman team is looking to hire a company to fulfill this responsibility.</p> <p>Culvert project is currently being mostly covered by the American Recovery Act funds and another grant.</p>	Jim encouraged the group to encourage others in town to complete the survey
Adjournment	Meeting was adjourned at 8:43pm	

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa McCabe