

TOWN OF LEE
32 MAIN STREET
PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

POSTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF M.G.L. CHAPTER 39
SECTION 23B - AMENDED.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Minutes

PLACE OF MEETING: Lenox Town Hall

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DAY, DATE & TIME: Thursday, January 15, 2009

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Members Present: Deborah Garry, Chairperson, John Philpott,
Lenox Members: Neal Carpenter, Rose Fitzgerald-Casey, Vincent
Ammendola, David Lane, Tim Flanagan, Joe Strauch.

**7:30 Notice of Intent, Mark Alaminasky, Laurel Lake Preservation Assoc.,
Inc., Invasive Aquatic Plant Management program. File # 196-0371; 198-
0242, Mark Bellaud, Senior Biologist, Aquatic Control Technologies**

Member introduction started at 7:30. Mark Alimansky started hearing by reading introduction on the mission of the association. He requested the approval of NOI filed regarding the aquatic plants control. Environmental consulting firm represented by Mark Bellaud went on to explain how in the past year, the association decided it wants to take action through small grants by engaging ACT to survey lake and provide lake management plan. Approx 60 acres of the lake is under milfoil growth which is approx 60% of lake. Also, there are more than 13 different species of plants of native plants; however the typical Eurasian milfoil behavior is taking over native plant growth. Prior hand pulling efforts have been conducted with mild success but is expensive and manpower prohibited in dense areas. At this point of milfoil infestation, hand pulling is not a sufficient strategy. Mark Bellaud is recommending an integrated plan including the herbicide—REWARD® (diquat dibromide).

Benefits include that it is fast acting and REWARD® being most cost-effective.

The three year plan for Eurasian Milfoil treatment as described in the NOI is as follows: The first part of the plan is to take a pre-treatment survey of Laurel Lake. In late May or early June, about 60 acres of the Lake will be treated with REWARD®. A post treatment survey will be conducted in the fall to evaluate the weed treatment. The plan calls for further treatments of REWARD® in each of the next two years. The amount and area to be treated will depend on the efficiency of the first year treatment. A second part of the treatment plan is to properly pull weeds by hand each of the three years. The hand pulling will be in designated areas where the most benefit can be obtained and again based on the in Lake survey. The third part of the treatment plan is to draw down Laurel Lake in the late fall. A drawdown of three feet is requested and would be repeated each of the next two years.

Questions posed and answered:

- The drawdown is being considered because there is a beneficial reduction of milfoil along the shore line. A 3 foot drawdown may help shallow areas and to limit out-flow during treatment. Permission for drawdown has been presented to the DEP and Natural Heritage but permission has not been granted at this time. Permission from the dam owner Schweitzer-Mauduit Int. has also not been granted at this time.
- Reward would be done 1-1 1/2 gallons per surface acre (same amount would be applied the following year if treatment necessary, but at less of an area). Application method—mixed on boat and injected into the lake, not sprayed. Registered for use in state of MA and there is no residuals to bioaccumulate in animals. Laurel Lake would be closed the day of treatment. Drinking water and irrigation is not recommended for 5 days after treatment.
- Invasive species will bounce back even with continued treatment. There is no documentation of the Eurasian Milfoil

ever being completely eradicated. Continued treatment in some form will always be required.

- Post treatment monitoring to be done to assess efficacy of treatment. Milfoil is expected to return but vigor of milfoil will hopefully be reduced. Between 60 – 75% regrowth of milfoil predicted for next year based on past experiences.
- Reward® is a contact herbicide. After the 3 year period is over, Mark stated ongoing maintenance would be necessary but further evaluation is necessary prior to determining what treatment methods would be recommended in the future.
- Sediment toxicity is evaluated through testing and documented by manufacturer to ensure treatment doesn't exceed threshold levels. Once herbicide is applied, plant cell wall absorbs it, the plant collapses, dies and decomposes within a 2–3 week period. Decomposition doesn't affect oxygen of lake.
- As for lake abutters such as High Lawn Farms the ongoing management of runoff, septic system and lawn fertilization is very important. The LLPA association stated that runoff has been contained, septic systems have been upgraded usually have holding tanks, but Association has not addressed this issue directly and there input is purely anecdotal.

Open to public: Questions on the post 3 year strategy—Mark reiterating that it remains to be seen. The Lake needs to be monitored, evaluated and integration methods would probably be prescribed. Mercedes Gallagher presented the experiences of Center Pond, Becket. Carl Foote from Richmond Assoc discussed what that town has seen. Essentially—integrated methods in combination with herbicide seems to be necessary. Monica Ryan, Lee questioned time spent on hand pulling and cost but Mark couldn't give exact quote. Monica also mentioned information found on safety data sheets but Mark said those forms were outdated. She submitted those forms as well as information on weevils to both commissions for them to review. Harold Sherman, Laurel Lake, defended association position on management program stating they can't afford to

not doing anything, they don't have unlimited resources for ongoing herbicide treatment.

Deborah motioned to continue, John seconded. Rose motioned to close, seconded by David Lane. All in favor. Meeting to be conducted in Lenox, February 19 at 7:30. Mark A. requested if questions could be submitted to association prior to the next meeting. All agreed. Meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Martie Martin