

**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

PLACE OF MEETING: Judge's Chambers, Town Hall

DAY, DATE & TIME: Monday, March 2, 2009

Member Present: Deborah Garry, Chair, John Philpott, Marilyn Hansen, Kathy Arment.

Lenox Conservation Members: Neal Carpenter, Vincent Ammendola, Tim Flanagan, Joe Strauch.

Audience members: Richard Chrisman, Penelope Carey, Deidre Consolati, Trevor Jones, Ed Handberg, Monica Ryan, Mercedes Gallagher. Gail Ceresia

6:45 Amendment to Existing NOI #196-0353, Marilyn Hansen, 86 Mill Street. OOC issued April '07 and work was done in compliance with Fisheries and Wildlife. Since then there have been two heavy rains and Marilyn showed pictures of the resulting damage. She would like to straighten the flow once again by removing the obstruction and would like to do it in the winter as opposed to the summer. Only caveat is the weather this time of year. John made motion to modify original NOI to reestablish the original channel. Kathy seconded—all in favor.

7:00 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.

Mark Bellaud, Aquatic Control representing. A quick review was done for members who missed the original meeting. NHESAP said it did not impact issues associated with the wetlands but requested a report from MESA. Recommendations were made on protected species like the Pilsbry Spire snail. Neal wanted to be sure that all issues raised by Natural Heritage had been addressed. The Commissioners indicated that a management plan would have to be presented before the project could move forward.

Mark Bellaud hopes that perhaps they can start the pre treatment this year. There was a discussion on whether MESA recommendations should be considered as part of the NOI or part of the OOC. Mark Bellaud feels this doesn't effect wetlands protection act directly. He further stated that the letter dated Dec 29, from the Division of Fisheries discusses wetland protection act "therefore it is our opinion that ...meets standard of performance... to issue OOC." Mark feels the Division of Fisheries letter can be approved as long as their conditions are met. He contends that Natural Heritage is concerned with rare species issues and more so than issues with the Wetland Protection Act.

Joe Strauch wanted to know about the long term environmental effects once treatment ceases. Mark Bellaud responded by discussing other projects in other area ponds which have ongoing since treatment started in 2003. Mark's report on the post treatment of these ponds showed no reduction in the total number of specific species or the numbers of species within certain data parameters. Mark showed data on Eurasian water milfoil cover and how it dropped off with treatment. Diquat was selected because it is efficient and cost-effective which fits the budget of most associations. Aqueous weed treatment with chemicals are never 100%. Because of this an integrated approach to pond treatment measures such as drawdown and weed pulling are suggested.

The proposed alteration and lineage footage of Laurel Lake is as follows: 20,000 linear feet is total shoreline of the lake and NHESAP's recommendation for treatment is 11,000 linear footage because Natural Heritage has proposed that no more than 60% should be treated.

Native plant species in the lake have remained at a constant level while the infestation of the Milfoil has increased.

Neal Carpenter addressed concern that the DEP Guidance document recommends that repeated chemical applications should not be permitted. Neal stated that he cannot make a decision without addressing a watershed management plan. John pointed out that no specific group wants to take complete ownership of the pond and that the commission suggests we work with the group that is willing to take the reigns and implement some control and improvements in the lake. The Laurel Lake Association feels that information has already been submitted to the towns. The Association suggested that the 2002 joint study on Laurel Lake be submitted as part of the NOI.

The meeting was opened to the public: Mercedes Gallagher stated that the native plants in Center Pond in Becket were not negatively impacted.

The yellow perch only saw short term difficulties. She suggested invertebrates such as the cray fish and muscles would be indicators if there were any problems and therefore should be tested. She also suggested long weighted hoses not be used because it breaks off a lot of stems on the bottoms which then float around the lake as viable fragments. Therefore she recommended treatment out of the boats, just not in depth. Mercedes wanted to make commission aware of Milfoil "seeds" that can also spread.

Ed Handberg, Lee Sandy beach representative stated, "as the most popular fresh water lake in MA" it has the largest population enjoying the beach. As one who does testing on protozoa for the lake he assures the commissions that Laurel Lake is one of the more healthier lakes capable of regenerating itself. Mr. Handberg doesn't feel chemicals should be put in a natural lake.

Dee Consolati submitted a four page report from the Sandy Beach Committee to both towns.

Monica Ryan discussed how ground water can be affected if absorption sites become affected. Monica also commented on Weevils and that a company that doesn't offer that service would not offer that particular solution. Monica requested studies on crustaceans be part of the OOC. She also requested Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) on Diquat.

Gail Ceresia spoke that she was amazed at how few weeds she came across while swimming and is opposed to chemical treatment. Lynn Cataldo also expressed the same sentiment.

Joe moved to continue, Vince seconded for Lenox.
John moved to continue, Kathy seconded for Lee.
Continued to April 2 @ 7:30 in Lenox.

Minutes of: Jan 5 motion to accept by Kathy seconded by Marilyn, all in favor.

: Jan 14 motion to accept by Kathy seconded by Marilyn, all in favor.

: Feb 2 motion to accept by John seconded by Deb, all in favor

: Feb 17 motion to accept by Deb, seconded by Marilyn, all in favor.

Meeting closed 9:55.

Office Duty:

Mar 9 – Marilyn

Mar 23 - Kathy

Mar 30 – John

Respectfully Submitted,

Martie Martin
Secretary