

Highland Lake Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

Falmouth Town Hall Large Conference Room
September 17, 2019

Attendance:

Kimberly Darling, Heater Huntt (CCSWCD), Nancy Lightbody, Tom Peterson, John McKinnon, Dennis Brown, Tom Verlee, Kim White, Gretchen Anderson, Amanda Pratt (DEP), and Rosie Hartzler (phone)

Agenda Items:

1. New HLLT member Tom Verlee was introduced.
2. Review and approval of past meeting minutes—June 26 minutes were approved unanimously.
3. Committee updates:
 - a. Ordinance—didn't meet over the summer. John MacKinnon will again assume the Chair role of the committee. Dennis spoke with the Code Officer in Windham on the status of photographing the shoreline which between the two Towns should be less than \$1,000. Dennis will follow up
 - b. Education and outreach—following up from the meeting in June, working on Public Service Announcements (PSAs) and will be meeting tomorrow, September 18. On September 30, Limnology 101 class is scheduled from 5-9pm at Windham Public Works multi-purpose room located at 185 Windham Center Rd.

Tom Peterson shared some concerns that occurred on Johnson Rd in Windham where the contractor completed some work that was not clear in the work scope resulting in some “redo” on the part of the contractor. The work ended up creating a bigger environmental issue than the work was intended to mitigate. The group discussed education with road associations and contractors, Heather Huntt mentioned that John MacLaine with the DEP does this type of work regularly.

Heather suggests that perhaps it would be good to have road associations utilize contractors that are erosion control certified by DEP. The list of these certified contractors is on the DEP website. Rosie indicated that all work being done in 2019 (under then rubric of the HLA's Grant Implementation Committee) will be completed by DEP certified contractors.

- c. Watershed Management Plan—TAC is going to reschedule to October 2nd from 1-3pm Kimberly is going to reserve the Falmouth Conference Room. Heather passed out a list of the recommendations; key steps that the group wants to pursue through this plan that they're looking for public input. Heather is going to be taking feedback via email or calls on this handout by October 1st. The plan will be completed by the end of 2019 and approved by DEP and maybe EPA to be used to apply for EPA 319 grant funds in the spring of 2020; they may come out with RFP a bit sooner.

A Public Forum will be held at the Cornerstone Church on October 23, 5:30-8:00pm.

d. Water Quality and Science Roundtable

While the Lake responded similarly this year to last, the bloom wasn't "official" this year because the lowest reading on July 31 was 2.48 meters. A Secchi Disk reading of 2.0 is necessary for a bloom to be classified as "official". While better than the first four years of the blooms, the last two nonetheless are exhibiting that the problem has not gone away. Secchi Disk readings returned to 4 meters by August 10, 2019. Scientists are still working on E-DNA data results.

December 6, 2019 is the scheduled date of the Highland Lake Science Roundtable which will be held at USM. Karen Wilson will not be leading the science efforts next year, on September 26 the science stakeholders will be meeting at Rosie's house to discuss the 2020 water testing plans. On October 10, 5-6:30 at the Windham Town Hall, Karen Wilson will be interacting with members of the HLA Board of Directors, regarding updates on Highland Lake's water quality.

Jeff Dennis had expressed in a phone call earlier that an abbreviated and less pronounced bloom occurring in Highland Lake in 2018 and 2019. Significant differences between 2018 and 2019 in terms of weather patterns, while the lake exhibited similar results suggests that the cause of the bloom is likely not the result of either the very cool wet spring in 2019 or the warmer, very dry spring in 2018.

e. Mitigation Projects

The Highland Lake Association has a Grant Implementation Committee who is working with both Towns to implement these grant funds. A short discussion was held on utilizing public funds on private property and the ability for inspection to happen after the fact.

4. New Business

a. Lake Levels and Fish Passage

Dennis reported that a lot of adult alewives have passed over the dam, which was video recorded. He is hoping to bring together USM, DEP, DMR and Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to come up with a better downstream passage for Highland Lake. Dennis is working to schedule a meeting with those stakeholders, and representatives from all three communities (Windham, Falmouth and Westbrook) later this fall. The topic of alewife harvesting will also be included in this conversation.

b. Revised Chase project

The old McDermott Campground site is being re-proposed into a 55+ community of 62 units being called Twilight Cove. The Lake frontage is in Falmouth, which has approved a public dock. The developer has tried to address most of the concerns that were raised by the HLA in the last plans:

- No personal motorized boats allowed, several community pontoons and fishing boats only, canoes and kayaks will be permissible.
- fill in the moat and run the drainage through pipe to a proper outfall at the lake
- Direct the runoff from Rte. 302 through a filter bed of appropriate design to remove phosphorus.

- Gates to limit public access to the site waterfront
- Plan to remove more phosphorus from getting to the lake than will be created by the development

c. Permit by Rule fee changes

The fee for Permit By Rule will go from \$75 to \$250 effective in September 2019, but not implemented until November. The Land Bureau is almost entirely funded by fees. It was suggested that we contact our local legislators as an action item. Dennis is going to take the lead on drafting this letter and bringing it back to the full HLLT for the next meeting.

d. Other

Discussion of formalizing road association template and updating the DEPs documents online. Kim White is going to meet with Amanda Pratt to discuss this further.

Action items:

1. All comment on the Watershed Manager Plan Action Items to Heather by October 1
2. Dennis will follow up on the status of BMP inspection with both the Towns
3. Looking for Town support for better fishway passage
4. Questions for Karen Wilson for October 10 board meeting regarding 2020 testing
5. Permit by Rule, checking with statewide organizations on their involvement
6. Amanda with the DEP is going to follow up on pollution mitigation versus enhancement and waiving fee; also she will meet with Kim to discuss legal template for road associations

Meeting adjourned at: 4:46pm.