

# Highland Lake Leadership Team Meeting, Minutes October 25, 2018, Windham Town Hall

Dennis Brown, Donna Chapman, Chantal Scott, Jeff Dennis, Heather True, Kim White, Nancy Lightbody, Kimberly Darling, Gretchen Anderson, Tom Peterson.

Agenda items:

## **1. Approve minutes from the 9/10 and 10/11 meetings**

9/10 was a regular meeting, 10/11 meeting was an emergency meeting to discuss SCF money

Minutes from 9/10 were approved unanimously; minutes from 10/11 were approved unanimously

## **2. Discuss roles and responsibilities for the Highland Lake Management Plan and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Heather Huntt outlined the current status and needs of the overall Management Plan effort. We are currently waiting for the final contract to be signed between CCSWCD and the Towns/HLA. Heather requested the names of the personnel for the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). The thought is to have one rep from each town and the HLA. This committee is going to meet every other month for the next year, but may meet December, January and February. The TAC is the start of the next Management Plan effort.

Members of the TAC include Kim White and Rosie Hartzler from HLA, Gretchen Anderson from Windham, Kimberly Darling from Falmouth, John Maclaine and Jeff Dennis from the DEP as well as the Project Manager, Heather Huntt from CCSWCD. It was suggested that John MacKinnon should be asked to join the group as well.

An interesting discussion of who “owns” this plan when it is completed—HLLT or HLA ensued with no resolution as yet. There needs to be one entity established to make sure this plan doesn’t fall off the radar. This will have to be resolved by the next HLLT meeting

The Plan and the implementation need to include a long term commitment to follow through on this work. Heather referenced old management plans and how they were implemented and the ownership of them. She further highlighted the need for deliverables in the Plan. It was pointed out that this effort will require the support of responsible departments within the towns, such as Public Works and codes enforcement departments in the development of the plan.

## **3. Follow-up discussion on Ordinance Committee recommendation on BMP inspection ordinance for the Towns**

A discussion was held on BMPS—those associated with large development and how they don’t always get reviewed by the DEP as they should due to lack of resources, and BMPs that were installed following

the last watershed survey—176 total from 1999-2010 on public roads and residential properties. These were not well documented, and we'll have to rely on what was found during the most recent Watershed Survey. It was noted that there are several developments in the works right now in Windham, and we should make sure they are inspected going forward. Current watershed survey data should be used as a site tracker going forward (what was done, when etc.) which deals with private roads and 319 funding. We need to decide how to incorporate new development into this tracking system. Urbanized area within the MS4 permit zone is already documented.

A discussion was held on Private roads in Windham. The Town has an easement to plow the road, but may be lacking language on maintenance beyond cutting back branches and making sure plow trucks and emergency vehicles have room to get through. CCSWCD has a guideline/checklist for road maintenance that may be helpful in this process, especially in regards to environmental impacts to the Lake.

Burrill Hill Farm (off 302) has been noted to have issues due to a large old subdivision—this was addressed during the Watershed Survey but may need to be rechecked and possibly have a discussion of the logging operations and ordinance language around them.

#### **4. Discuss timing and process of recommended ordinance recommendations as they work their way through the respective Town approval processes**

John and Dennis made a presentation to the Falmouth Community Development Committee on five HLLT recommendations: Photograph the lakeshore (more policy than ordinance change), third party reviews, BMP inspections, manure storage are the recommendations and phosphorus budget limits. It was learned after the HLLT meeting that the proposed recommendations are to be presented to the Town Council on November 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **5. Committee updates**

**Education and Outreach** met on October the 22<sup>nd</sup>, talked about a public forum coming up in April with Karen Wilson being the keynote speaker. The idea was proposed of hosting it in Falmouth this year. Suggested topics included: 1. What we did and didn't learn from the 2018 testing, what were the hypothesis and results, and what should we do differently next year, 2. Results of the watershed survey, 3. Discussion of lower lake levels and if that is an appropriate topic. People will have an opportunity to ask questions and be heard. Based on last year, there will be an opportunity for volunteers to sign up for various activities. Kimberly is going to lock in the April 11<sup>th</sup> date for the Falmouth Elementary School to host the forum.

It was recommended that we create a press release on what HLLT has done and follow up with the press on articles they have written in the past. A discussion of pesticide/fertilizer ordinance

development in Falmouth was also covered, and once completed, will be shared with Windham for their consideration. The Committee also talked about a 2019 follow up to the road maintenance and repair seminar.

There was a discussion on working on buffer projects in 2019 in conjunction with a yardscaping seminar. The Committee wasn't able to address project based learning, but will get to those topics at the next meeting scheduled for Wed. November 28<sup>th</sup> from 3-5pm.

### **Ordinance Committee**

The info for this committee was already covered in discussion above. Another meeting needs to be scheduled; this committee hasn't met in at least a month.

**Watershed Management Committee** the letters are going to be mailed out today. The watershed report is going to be drafted hopefully within the next few months. John McKinnon is committed to draft the report, CCSWCD is willing to help. John McClaine has the maps done, the letters will be mailed and the report just needs to be written.

### **Water Quality/Science**

We have almost all of the phosphorus data in and the data from the UNH lab in, the photometric profile data samples have been collected and frozen and are at the DEP lab and the equipment needed to analyze them hasn't been completely set up— they are new and need standards to calibrate them. There are pieces of the puzzle that we won't have until maybe the end of November. It is unclear when the DNA results will come in also. It's possible that the science roundtable may be put off until January rather than December. A lot of analysis is still needed. Keith Williams found a study on picocyanobacteria and how the picocyanobacteria may have been overlooked due to their microscopic size. We were told by Jeff Dennis that there are a lot more studies on marine instances, but not as much on fresh water.

Over \$24,000 was contributed from Lake residents to this year's water sampling. Pulling all of the sampling data and analysis together and being able to convey this to the public will be a big step in encouraging residents to provide funding for the upcoming season's' water sampling.

## **6. General Comments**

There was a discussion on the Science Committee and the potential of the public being more involved with the Committee. Because this committee is an adjunct committee to the HLLT, rather than a formal subcommittee under the HLLT, participation in the Science Committee is at the invitation of the Committee.

Further discussion was held on how to represent the data to the general public—right now, it's been posted to HLA's website. It will also be posted on the Highland Lake Leadership Team's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55pm.