

June 26 Highland Lake Leadership Team Meeting Minutes

3:00-5:00pm, Falmouth Town Hall Large Conference Room

Attendance: Jeff Dennis, Nathan Poore, Dennis Brown, Kimberly Darling, Tom Peterson, Gretchen Anderson, Amanda Pratt, Nancy Lightbody, Rosie Hartzler and Chris Brewer

Dennis welcomed and introduced Amanda Pratt, DEP taking over the John McClain position. Dennis reported that Chantel Scott is leaving Highland Lake and will no longer be a HLA or HLLT member.

The minutes were reviewed and Rosie offered that item # 3 was misstated and suggested amending the wording to "Results from the 2018 testing program are ongoing and will continue to inform the 2019 program". Nancy moved the amendment, Rosie seconded and the minutes were approved 6-0 with the change.

There was a brief discussion about the tour of Highland Lake with Nathan, Kimberly, Kim and Dennis this past Monday. It was clear that the Falmouth Town Landing road should be repaired to create a crown the entire length of the road to minimize erosion.

Ordinance Committee report by Dennis. A joint Windham Natural Resources Advisory Committee and HLLT Ordinance Committee meeting was held in May to learn more about the possibility of recommending tighter nutrient management ordinance in Windham and Falmouth. Matt Randall from the Dept. of Agriculture attended and helped the two committees better understand the role of the Dept. of Agriculture and how they may be used to address runoff concerns from farms. Any proposed new nutrient management ordinance must be approved by the Dept. of Agriculture before enactment. It became clear that new ordinance development, covering all desirable aspects, would be difficult to pass approval of the Dept of Agr. There was further discussion about registering farms from a communication perspective and in establishing an inventory of farms, but it was recognized that it would be difficult to accomplish.

The E&O committee is talking about getting word on ways to help the watershed and this could include good farming practices. It is hoped that we can identify most of the farms through a watershed inventory using Google Earth and following up on possible farming activity.

EO Committee report by Nancy Lightbody. The Committee has been emphasizing public service announcements. The effort by the Windham 6th class, while educational for those involved, is not of the caliber needed for the public. Kimberly offered to contact someone at FHS. After doing so, a teacher got back to her and the school envisions doing something through the STEM program. The plan is for FHS students to be on the lake in September to take pictures. There is a challenge to keep a focused theme under 40 seconds. Possible PSA topics included: history of lakes, buffering ideas, pet waste, septic systems, living on a lake road and other ideas. Partnering with students is exciting.

Lawn care forums were discussed by the E&O Committee. Nancy said periodic walks on the roads would get us some intel on the condition of the roads. Next meeting is on Sept 4, 2019.

Water Quality Update by Jeff Dennis. Karen Wilson and Jeff Dennis are reviewing the 2018 monitoring to see how it impacts testing in 2019. He offered an update on current testing and that we are waiting

on some analysis. Jeff provided an interim report on what is known so far from the partial results from the 2018 testing and what else has been learned so far this year.

Watershed management report – Activity is on-going into defining the action items that will be part of the management plans. The hope is to have a feedback session at the HLA annual meeting. This will give us some insight on public input. The septic survey outline has been completed. Conservation practices, phosphorus reduction, private road maintenance, water quality testing, aquatic habitat and education and outreach are included in the list of the action items.

Next meeting to be late Sept. Dennis will send out a Doodle Poll.