

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 19-07
COUNCIL MTG OF: February 5, 2019
FROM: D. Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: Milfoil Treatment in Beaver Lake

PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to request approval by the Town Council to participate in milfoil treatment in Beaver Lake.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

The Town Council is encouraged to adopt Resolution #2019-003.

BACKGROUND

The Beaver Lake Improvement Association has been monitoring milfoil activity on the Lake for more than 25 years; milfoil is an invasive aquatic weed which first appeared on Beaver Lake in 2014. Since that time, milfoil has been removed manually with the assistance of divers from the NH Department of Environmental Services and applying chemical treatment in the meadow section of the Lake. More recently, residents of Beaver Lake completed state training to be certified in milfoil removal. The presence of milfoil has grown whereby it is anticipated that chemical treatment is necessary to eradicate the species.

DISCUSSION

The herbicide treatment used during this process is applied by a licensed applicator who is contracted; research has verified that municipalities which use herbicides on their lakes to battle milfoil have contracted with Solitude Lake Management, which is the entity NHDES has awarded a state bid and BLIA has been in discussions for this project. Although the goal is to eradicate the species through a series of annual treatments, complete eradication is dependent upon the reintroduction of the species through boats being launched on the lake.

Abutters are notified prior to treatment, and some liability for accidental environmental damage is transferred to the Town (particularly if there is a failure to notify), which is a standard clause in contracts with municipalities. The major treatment would occur in June, with further testing and reporting in June – October.

FISCAL IMPACT

BLIA anticipates that the contract will cost \$12,780, of which 25% will be reimbursed by NHDES through a grant program. The Association will commit \$3,000, which leaves a balance of \$6,585 which the Town is being requested to fund. FY19 Professional Services funds will be used to fund the Town's share.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

See Resolution #2019-003 – BLIA is being requested to fund 25% of the program.

RECOMMENDED MOTIONS

See Attached Resolution #2019-003.