

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 20-09 & 20-10
COUNCIL MTG. OF: January 28, 2020
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Administration
PREPARED BY: Administration
SUBJECT: Milfoil Treatment at Beaver Lake

INTRODUCTION:

To seek authorization to continue working with the Beaver Lake Improvement Association to provide milfoil treatment at Beaver Lake.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS

Please see comments within this staff report.

BACKGROUND

Milfoil is an invasive species which has infiltrated Beaver Lake. FY 20 was the first year in which the Town Council voted to appropriate funds to assist with the control and future eradication of the plants. Previous to that date, BLIA exclusively assumed this responsibility, with grant assistance from the State Department of Environmental Services. The Council, recognizing both the financial burden upon a private organization preserving a public body of water, and the potential adverse impact upon property values should milfoil not be controlled, earmarked approximately \$6,600 in FY 20.

DISCUSSION

The Beaver Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors met this week to discuss the approach for this year and agreed to continue paying \$3,000. For the herbicide treatment the cost to the Town would be slightly less than last year at \$6,257 versus \$6,585 in 2019. The grant for FY 21 was increased to provide additional treatment options.

In FY 20 a singular approach was used which focused on an herbicide treatment; For FY 21 NHDES has requested bids for divers as well. Although the Town and BLIA will have discussion on the selected methods and ultimate cost for the program, NHDES stipulates that the entire grant needs to be accepted if the Town decides on one or both approaches.

At the BLIA board meeting, the members discussed exploring the possibility of using divers for the lake as opposed to the Meadow; these options will be explored with NHDES. The BLIA and the Town can then collectively determine how to proceed with divers this year, which would be supplemental to the BLIA dive team.

Listed below are statistics documenting BLIA's work to mitigate milfoil in the lake:

2019

- 75 diver hours
- 147 total volunteer hours (diver and spotter time)
- 203 gallons of milfoil removed

2018

- 65 diver hours
- 127 total volunteer hours
- 173 gallons of milfoil removed

As the numbers reflect, the BLIA spent even more time in and on the water in 2019 removing more milfoil than the first year in 2018. BLIA found milfoil in areas where it had not been seen before because BLIA had the opportunity to dive in areas that were not reviewed in 2018 since the milfoil was removed in certain areas which gave BLIA the opportunity to explore more of the lake. We continue to be hopeful that the growth will be minimal in the areas of focus last year and we can continue to explore more of the lake. We would like to see the volume of milfoil removed decrease year over year which would tell us that we are ahead of the growth.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, the Town budgets \$6,600 as an approximate 40% match for the herbicide treatment; this year, the maximum NHDES grant is \$8,171, which is divided between the Herbicide Treatment (\$6,171) and diver costs (\$2,000). Should the Town and BLIA proceed with both options, a discussion will ensue regarding the assumption of the additional local share of the Diver program (\$3,000).

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Action #1 – Support Resolution #2020-006 which will allow the Town to receive up to \$8,171 in NHDES Grant Funds;

Action #2 – Support Resolution #2020-007 which will allow the Town to receive up \$3,000 in funds from Beaver Lake Improvement Association.

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