

STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 23-08 & 23-09
COUNCIL MTG. OF: January 17, 2023
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Mike Fowler, Director Public Works
PREPARED BY: Craig Durrett, Environmental Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2023 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. Before 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 \$6,000 in FY 22.

DISCUSSION

The Beaver Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors met and agreed to set aside up to \$3,000 toward the Milfoil eradication in 2022. The BLIA estimated a local match of up to \$3000 again for 2023 in the grant application. For the herbicide treatment the cost to the Town would be \$5215 in 2023. This is a little more than in 2022 but still less than prior years which ranged from \$5960 to \$6,585 in 2021 through 2019.

In FY 22 a singular approach was used which focused on an herbicide treatment; As in FY 22, bids were only requested for herbicide treatment.

Listed below are some statistics documenting BLIA's work to mitigate milfoil in the lake through 2020:

	2022	2020	2019	2018
Diver Hours	102	69	75	65
Volunteer Hours (Diver and Spotter Time)	203	137	147	127
Gallons of Milfoil Removed	363	147	203	173
Total Plants Removed	3864	1442	2046	No Count

The BLIA still spent more time in and on the water in 2020 removing more milfoil than the first year in 2018 but slightly less time than in 2019. An important difference between 2019 and 2020 is that in 2020 BLIA purchased and began using sea scooters to travel underwater at much faster speeds. With the use of this type of equipment BLIA covered a tremendous amount of acreage in a fraction of the time. Prior to 2019 BLIA divers moved through the water with only manpower via scuba diving fins which was much slower. In past years, divers could only go to an area 2-3 times, whereas in 2020 they were able to hit the same areas 4-6 times because they were moving through the water at greater speeds. The BLIA continued to spend significant amount of time in the water removing milfoil in 2021 and 2022. In 2022, BLIA volunteers spent 50% more time in and on the water and removed almost 2.5 times as much milfoil as in 2020.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, the Town budgets \$6,000 as an approximate 40% match for the herbicide treatment; this year, the maximum NHDES grant is \$8,215, which is allotted entirely to the Herbicide Treatment.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Action #1 – Support Resolution #2023-04 which will allow the Town to receive up to \$8,215 in NHDES Grant Funds;

Action #2 – Support Resolution #2023-05 which will allow the Town to receive up to \$3,000 in funds from Beaver Lake Improvement Association.

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RESOLUTION

Number 2023-004

To Authorize the Town to apply, receive and expend a grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for Milfoil Treatment

WHEREAS, Section 5.1 of the Town Charter designates the Town Council as the governing and legislative body of the Town, and

WHEREAS, Section 9.15 of the Town Charter authorizes the Town Council to accept grant funding; and

WHEREAS, milfoil is an invasive aquatic weed which has been introduced in Beaver Lake; and

WHEREAS, left untreated, milfoil will continue to grow, damaging the Lake and potentially negatively impacting property values; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Beaver Lake Improvement Association and the Town to eradicate milfoil from Beaver Lake;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED IN COUNCIL that the Town Administrator is hereby authorized to apply for, accept and expend up to Eight Thousand Two Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$8,215) in grant funds from the Department of Environmental Services and to execute all necessary documents to provide for milfoil treatment on Beaver Lake.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Adopted: January 17, 2023

Attest:

X _____

Joshua Bourdon, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: _____