



STAFF REPORT

AGENDA ITEM #: 24-04 & 24-05
COUNCIL MTG. OF: January 2, 2024
FROM: Dave Caron, Town Administrator
OFFERED BY: Mike Fowler, Director Public Works
PREPARED BY: Craig Durrett, Environmental Coordinator
SUBJECT: 2024 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

Council continued support of this initiative is appreciated as a critical tool to manage the milfoil infestation on Beaver Lake.

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 23.

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 and 2023. The BLIA estimated a local match of up to \$3,000 again for 2024 in the grant application. For the herbicide treatment the cost to the Town would range from \$5,815 to \$7,578 in 2024. This is a little more than in 2023 but still less than prior years which ranged from \$5,960 to \$6,585 in 2019 through 2021.

In FY23 a singular approach was used which focused on an herbicide treatment; As in FY23, bids were only requested for herbicide treatment.

Listed below are some statistics documenting BLIA's work to mitigate milfoil in the lake through 2023:

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Diver Hours	48	102	60	69	75	65
Volunteer Hours (Diver and Spotter Time)	97	203	116	137	147	127
Gallons of Milfoil Removed	182	363	145	147	203	173
Total Plants Removed	1368	3864	1158	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 and increasing the number of gallons of milfoil removed per diver hour.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Currently, the Town budgets \$6,000 as an approximate 40% match for the herbicide treatment; this year, the maximum NHDES grant is up to 50% of the project cost or \$8,815 based on the contractor proposal, which is allotted entirely to the Herbicide Treatment. The Town cost would range from \$5,815 to \$7,578 depending on final grant award.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY COUNCIL

Action #1 – Support Resolution #2024-001 which will allow the Town to receive up to \$8,815 in NHDES Grant Funds;

Action #2 – Support Resolution #2024-002 which will allow the Town to receive up to \$3,000 in funds from Beaver Lake Improvement Association.

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RESOLUTION

Number 2024-001

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 Eight Hundred Fifteen Dollars (\$8,815) 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 2, 2024

Attest:

X _____

Charles Foote, Council Chair

Date: _____

X _____

Cristina Guilford, Town Clerk

Date: _____