LAKE MASPENOCK WEED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL ADVISORY GROUP

HOPKINTON MA 10748

OCTOBER 8, 2015 MINUTES

In attendance;

John Westerling, Dept. of Public Works

Eric Sonnet, Parks & Rec. Dept.

Jeff Barnes, Conservation Commission

Jamie Goncalves, At Large

Cynthia Esthimer, Lake Resident

Absent;

Drew Logan, At Large

David Mitchell, Limnologist & Aquatic biologist from Abt Associates, consultant to John Westerling

1. Call to order followed by election of Officers;

 Jamie Goncalves, Chair

 Cynthia Esthimer, Vice Chair

 Drew Logan, Clerk

1. Review the charge to the group as stated by the Selectmen.

The LMWM&CAG will study and make recommendations to the Selectmen regarding weed management and control. The group will work to consult specialists, organize public meetings for resident input, increase both communication and education about the benefits, risks and ecological impacts of the group’s recommendations.

1. Jeff Barnes spoke to the lake’s history of weed studies and management

actions dating back to 1979 records. Steps taken in the past have included drawdowns and application of herbicides such as sodium arsenate and Silvex to control milfoil and fanwort.

The 1987 Metcalf and Eddy study created a Town Plan to maintain a healthy lake by controlling invasive and nuisance weeds. A few of the recommendations have been tried, such as draw downs of water level to kill weeds. History regarding the purchase of the dam and repair work was noted as it pertains to extended draw downs of the water levels moving forward.

In March 2008, the Lake Maspenock Preservation Assoc. hired Aquatic Control to make recommendations of management techniques. The LMPA hired Aquatic Control again in November 2012 as the weeds were a significant ptoblem. AC gave cost estimates on the use of hydroraking, mechanical harvesting, and the use of herbicides.

1. Discussion of Weed Management alternatives.

David Mitchell recommends that the group get the best snapshot of the lake now by collecting data. The group will use data already gathered by the LMPA and will expand considerations to include Town and resident sewer systems, storm water drainage, water quality testing and more.

He stressed the importance of monitoring the lake and will guide us in the process.

The importance of public education was discussed as critical to the understanding of, and eventual acceptance of, plans to manage the lake weeds. This will be a process facilitated by the Weed Advisory Group and will include open meetings and discussions.

A resident of Oakhurst Rd. in attendance spoke to the degree of the current weed problem.

The Advisory group gave permission for the Consultant to be paid using some of the $60,000 appropriated at the May 2015 Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

The next meeting is Thurs. Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. in Rm. 215 at Town Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Cynthia Esthimer