

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
INVASIVE PLAN PROGRAM, MILTON THREE PONDS

June 2, 2016 - 6:30 P.M.

Presented by John McPhedran and Paul Gregory

Councilors Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, Witham, Cameron and Paradis were present.

Mayor Hilliard opened the workshop at 6:30 pm. He recognized Councilor Soldati to proceed.

Councilor Soldati said that the Sustainability Committee discussed the issue of the European Naiad that has been found in Milton Three Ponds.

Scott Orzechowski, Chair of the Sustainability Committee, addressed the council. He discussed in length the effect that the European Naiads can have on the ponds. The risk of the Naiads is greater than the risk of the herbicides to treat it. The Sustainability Committee endorses the use of herbicides to treat the Naiads. He explained that the water from the ponds feeds into the Salmon Falls River, which supplies the drinking water for the City of Somersworth.

John McPhedran and Paul Gregory of the MDEP Invasive Aquatic Species Program, shared a presentation detailing the Response to the European Naiad in Milton Three Ponds. (Attached)

Councilor Messier stated that the herbicide will be non-detectable once it reaches Somersworth. The dilution is real small; it is not a fast moving river. There will be minimal impact to our drinking water.

Councilor Witham asked why the MDEP is handling this and not the NHDES. McPhedran and Gregory explained that the majority is in Maine waters.

The actual application will be done by Solitude Lake Management; the treatment will be a combination of physically removing the naiad and the use of herbicide.

Councilor Pepin asked what would happen if we didn't treat the naiads. McPhedran and Gregory said it would spread and take over, choking out the other natural flora. It would spread and march downstream.

Councilor Soldati said, just to clarify for the public, they are hoping that the treatment could be done now before the naiad goes to seed. They need permission from the town of Lebanon, ME because they have a law that bans the use of herbicides in the drinking water.

Berwick has an ordinance also. It is unlikely that they can treat this year because of the ordinances, but they can use all mechanical measures as possible.

Councilor Paradis asked about the timeframe.

They need to treat before the seeds set, by mid July. They intend for the herbicide to be a one time thing, then maintain mechanically.

Mayor Hilliard said that the Sustainability Committee authorizes the use of the herbicide.

Councilor Messier, seconded by Councilor Dumont, made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Sustainability Committee endorse the use of herbicides in Milton Three Ponds to treat the European Niaids. The vote passed unanimously.

The workshop ended at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk