

**SELECTMEN'S WORKSHOP**  
**Minutes of 6/25/07**  
**4:00 p.m.**

*Selectmen:*

*Frank S. Michel, Chairman*  
*Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman*  
*Robert C. Flanders*  
*Miller C. Lovett*  
*Colette Worsman*

*Town Manager:*  
*Recording Clerk:*

*Carol M. Granfield*  
*Karin Landry*

The Workshop was opened by Chairman Frank Michel at 4:00 p.m. He introduced the Board and Recording Clerk.

**W 07-09      Abatements**

Carol Granfield presented a list of 54 abatements in the total amount of \$24,702.12 and 4 abatements in the total amount of \$2,171.62. Each request for abatement was thoroughly investigated by Assessor Commerford and he made a recommendation for their approval. Abatements to date total \$141,897.01. She recommended approving the abatements as proposed.

*Selectman Flanders moved to approve 54 abatements presented for 2006 in the total amount of \$24,702.12. He also moved to approve 4 abatements for 2006 in the total amount of \$2,171.62. Seconded by Peter Brothers.*

The Board thanked Assessor Commerford for his thorough report on the abatement requests. Selectman Lovett noted that the Town's investment in the GIS program was utilized in determining the acreage of island property.

*4-0-0 (Selectman Worsman tardy). Motion passed.*

**Water Quality Issues**

Protecting the water quality of the Town's water supply and Meredith Bay has been identified as the number one goal for 2007-2008. It includes Waukewan Watershed Protection, sewer study follow-up, code enforcement violations, developing a strategic plan for Meredith Bay, and monitoring Bay water quality. The Planning and Zoning annual report and the Community Plan for 2002 identify water resource conservation as a major priority. The Town has put aside \$25,000 to get Waukewan and Meredith Bay strategic planning underway.

(Selectman Worsman arrived)

The Town Manager introduced the invited guests: Jacquie Colburn, Lakes Program Coordinator, NHDES; Bruce Bond, Chairman, Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee; and Jeff Schloss, UNH Extension Professor/Specialist, Lakes Lay Monitoring Program. She briefly outlined the presentations that each will make.

Bruce Bond presented an implementation update on the Lake Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee. He highlighted their accomplishments to date, ongoing, and future efforts. He spoke about the obstacles the Committee faces, and noted that a watershed the size of Winnepesaukee and subwatershed the size of Meredith Bay will create greater challenges.

Chairman Michel solicited volunteers for the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee. Anyone interested in serving on the Committee should contact the Town Manager or Bruce Bond.

Jacquie Colburn outlined the biotoxins research that is being pursued by Jim Haney, Ph.D., Chair, UNH Zoology Dept. that includes Lake Waukewan and various other lakes in New Hampshire. Toxic algae blooms are becoming more frequent in New Hampshire and across the nation. Efforts are being made to identify water quality issues at an early stage so that an advisory can be put in place.

Community Development Director John Edgar outlined efforts by Town Departments to identify algae blooms at an early stage.

Pat Tarpey of the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association spoke about the difficulties faced by the Watershed in bringing eight shorefront towns together. She presented an update on the subwatershed project, which includes Gilford, Laconia and Meredith. The project is looking for funding resources and is currently being considered in a contest being held by American Express. Chairman Michel urged all cardholders to go on the American Express website to vote for the Lake Winnepesaukee project.

Ralph Pisapia of the Meredith Conservation Commission reported on the monitoring of water quality in Hawkins Brook and two sites in Meredith Bay. The water quality in Hawkins Brook has improved since the first year of monitoring. He does not know if the information gathered by different agencies or entities is shared in a substantive way.

Jeff Schloss, UNH Extension Professor/Specialist, Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, reported on the monitoring of the Bay and Lake Winnepesaukee. He told the Board about the effects of weather on water quality. There has been a decrease in transparency consistently at the two sites being monitored from year to year. There has been an increase in chlorophyll in the inner Bay, which did not occur last year because of heavy rains. Meredith is seeing a pattern of water quality similar to other towns surrounding Winnepesaukee. He told the Board about ways to protect water quality in the Bay, including capturing water so it does not run off and get into the Lake, especially with larger projects. Development should occur with the onus on the person wanting development to show they won't increase the flow of water into the Lake. He presented an overview of biotoxic research on the Lake including studies that are being done to better

understand when algae blooms occur, as well as how and when they accumulate and produce toxins.

Jacquie Colburn reported on exotic species monitoring and treatments in Meredith Bay.

John Edgar spoke about the needs for Meredith Bay, including public participation, coordination and communication, strategic planning and a comprehensive action plan. An appropriation for monitoring is in place and the Town must decide how best to use it. Jacquie Colburn offered the State's assistance in putting together a sampling regime with UNH and the Waukegan Watershed Advisory Committee. Jeff Schloss agreed to a follow-up on discussions at the workshop.

Chairman Michel would like to give John Edgar and Carol Granfield authority to move forward with a plan for protecting water quality. He would like them to come up with a staff report that gives viable alternatives. He does not think it is necessary to hire a consultant to guide them through the initial stages of the plan.

Selectman Brothers would like to see the Town collect the available data and utilize it before hiring a consultant.

Selectman Flanders thinks that there are low-cost and no-cost strategies that can be implemented. He would like to adopt a philosophy of not spending more than 50% of the money allocated for protecting water quality to do testing

Selectman Worsman does not want the Board to rush into the plan haphazardly. She would like to gather information and use the resources that are available to the Town before spending additional money.

Selectman Lovett would like to have a plan in place: what is the problem, who the players and going to be, how we will play together, and a timeline. The Town should not wait any longer to get a base line on the quality of the water in Meredith Bay.

Resident Peter Miller spoke about gaps in the knowledge of what is happening in Meredith Bay. The current method of water sampling is limited and lacks sophistication. He spoke about the obstacles faced by the Conservation Commission in recruiting volunteers for water sampling. The Bay is at the top of the natural resources list and is the engine that drives the local economy. The Town must know what is going on with water quality and if it requires hiring a consultant, should do so.

John Edgar can develop the beginning phases of the strategy but would like to rely on technical support to get a better understanding of gaps in information, additional things to be done, how frequently, where, costs associated with it, sense of prioritization, and sequencing. He would like to hold a meeting to share speakers with a broader audience including summer residents, the Rotary Club, business community, Chamber, Marina, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Transportation.

The Town Manager summarized that the purpose of the workshop was to identify where we are, what we have done, and to hear experts provide insight on what we have done and where we might want to go. She has enough information to prepare a staff report on where we are and what we have done.

John Edgar spoke of the opportunity for the Town to be the first community on the Big Lake to take its Bay and Harbor to this level of scrutiny. The Town is well-positioned to do something special and it should be viewed as a tremendous opportunity and responsibility.

Chairman Michel thanked the guests for their ongoing efforts in addressing water quality issues.

*The Chair recessed the Workshop at 6 p.m. for a short break followed by a non-public meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(a).*

Respectfully submitted:

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Carol M. Granfield, Town Manager

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Frank S. Michel, Chairman

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Karin Landry, Recording Clerk

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Peter F. Brothers, Vice Chairman

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Robert C. Flanders

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Miller C. Lovett

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Colette Worsman