



Lake Nipmuc Task Force Committee

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, August 29, 2023

COMMITTEE MEMBER	ATTENDANCE	ATTENDED
Daniel Byer – Director of Parks & Recreation	☒ Present ☐ Absent	☒ In-Person ☐ Remote
Jonathan Dudley – Highway Surveyor	☒ Present ☐ Absent	☒ In-Person ☐ Remote
Joyce Gilmore – Board of Health Member	☒ Present ☐ Absent	☒ In-Person ☐ Remote
Dona Son – Lake Nipmuc Association	☒ Present ☐ Absent	☒ In-Person ☐ Remote
Bob Sweet – Conservation Commission	☒ Present ☐ Absent	☒ In-Person ☐ Remote
Vacant – Select Board Member	☐ Present ☒ Absent	☐ In-Person ☐ Remote
MEETING LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
Mendon Town Hall – Upper Meeting Room – 18 Main Street & Remote via TEAMS	7:00 PM	8:13 PM

approved 1/30/24

At 7:00 pm, Jack McLellan, Board of Health Administrator, starts the meeting and begins with the 1st item on the agenda.

1. Lake Nipmuc Task Force Introduction

Jack reads the Introduction of the Lake Nipmuc Task Force, outlining its creation, representatives, purpose, and scope of the Committee.

2. Task Force Committee Members Introduction

Jack asks those on the committee to introduce themselves and their association to the Task Force.

- Dona Marie Son, part of the Lake Nipmuc Association
- Joyce Gilmore, member of the Board of Health
- Jonathan Dudley, Highway Department
- Bob Sweet, Conservation Commission
- Dan Byer, Parks Department

3. Appoint Task Force Committee Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary)

Jack asks the Committee for volunteers for the Chair of the Committee. Bob Sweet nominates Jonathan Dudley to be the Chair of the Committee, remaining committee representatives agree and Jon accepts the Chair position.

Jack asks the Committee for volunteers for the Vice-Chair of the Committee. Dona volunteers for the Vice-Chair of the Committee, remaining committee representatives agree and Dona Son accepts the Vice-Chair position.

Jack asks the Committee for volunteers for the Secretary of the Committee. Jonathan Dudley nominates Daniel Byer to be the Secretary of the Committee, remaining committee representatives agree and Dan accepts the Secretary position.

4. Past, Present, and Future Health & Concerns of Lake Nipmuc

Jack hands over the meeting to the Chair, Jonathan Dudley. The Chair recognizes two additional members from the Lake Nipmuc Association, who are in-person at the meeting, and asks them to introduce themselves and express their concerns.

Wayne Phipps, President of the Lake Nipmuc Association and Linda Lamothe, Vice-President of the Lake Nipmuc Association.

Dona Son, along with Wayne and Linda, expressed their concerns about Lake Nipmuc being closed so often in regard to the Beach Testing and E.coli and wondering if it was septic replated or geese excrement. Jack mentions that in preparation for the kick-off meeting, that he has graphed out the Beach Testing Results for the 2023 Season. The Committee reviews the graph.

Dan Byer wanted to make note that the testing results are specific for the town beach swimming area only. Dan states that although there are some exceeding test results at the beach area, does not mean that other areas of the lake would also be high, and could be quite the opposite. This could also be reversed as the beach area could be within the State Limits, but other areas of the Lake might have high concentration of E.coli levels.

Dan stated that this beach season, that there were 2 actual beach closings due to the high levels of E.Coli and the way the Massachusetts Law works is that if the 1st sample exceeds the state limit of testing, a 2nd sample can be tested as long as its

within 24 hours of the 1st sample. If the 2nd sample is below the limit, the beach can remain open. But if the 2nd sample is also in exceedance, then that is when the beach would close until a sample test comes back below the State limits.

Jack asks Dan how the samples are conducted to do the testing. Dan explains that there is 1 simple sample taken in the middle of the swimming area and that is what gets tested for E.coli. Dan mentioned in past years, there were taking multiple samples and mixing the water and testing that composite to get the results, but that is against the State Beach Testing Guidelines.

The Chair asks Dan is there was additional testing around the lake. Dan mentioned that he had asked for funding to purchase equipment to do additional testing around the lake, but wasn't available. Joyce commented that she thought additional testing was being conducted. Dan mentioned that the Board of Health increased the Beach Testing Budget for Fiscal Year 2024, and believes that the Committee would recommend what areas of the lake to provide the additional testing. Dan also mentions that with the Town purchasing the test equipment, that the Town could test as many times and in many places at a lower cost than having the Certified Lab coming out and taking the sample back with them for the results.

Jack mentions that he has continued to update the properties around Lake Nipmuc in regard to their Septic Systems and Pumping Records, and also has mapped out 6 sites as possibilities for additional lake testing of E.coli. Joyce mentions that she read about Lake Quinsigamond using water quality monitoring buoys that are small, solar-powered, and collect and send measurements to an online dashboard, tracking water quality changes in real time.

Dan mentions that the Storm Water Outflow, next to the beach by the access path, contributes to the Beach Area's high exceedance as its run off from Taft Ave. The Chair mentions that he has a couple of contacts that have worked with the Buoys and will reach out to them to point the committee in the right direction.

In review of the properties surrounding Lake Nipmuc, the properties that have not responded to the Septic Pumping Records from the initial reach out back in April 2023, to send them another reminder to send the Board of Health proof of pumping of the septic systems on their property. Bob recommends to the Lake Nipmuc Association members to put in their newsletter that the Board of Health is looking for their septic pumping records. Linda said she would do that.

The topic of Title 5 requirements came into discussion and the possibility of proposing a regulation that a transfer of residential real property abutting Lake Nipmuc would be required to submit a Title 5 Inspection Report, regardless of the current exclusions in 310 CMR 15.301.4: System Inspection.

Joyce makes a motion to recommend that the Board of Health send out a second letter to those properties who have not submitted their pumping record information. Dona seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

Roll call vote: Jonathan Dudley-Aye, Dona Son-Aye, Daniel Byer-Aye, Joyce Gilmore-Aye, Robert Sweet-Aye.

Bob makes a motion to recommend that the Board of Health inquire about the possibility of proposing a regulation that would require a transfer of residential real property submit a Title 5 Inspection Report, regardless of the current exclusions. Joyce seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

Roll call vote: Jonathan Dudley-Aye, Dona Son-Aye, Daniel Byer-Aye, Joyce Gilmore-Aye, Robert Sweet-Aye.

Dan suggests getting Town Email Accounts set-up for those who currently do not have one. So, everyone on the Committee has a "@mendonma.gov" email address that would be utilized for all email communications.

5. Set Date and Time for next Committee Meeting

The Chair sets the next meeting date on Tuesday – September 19th at 7pm.

The Chair makes a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting. Joyce seconds the motion. The motion is passed.

Roll call vote: Jonathan Dudley-Aye, Dona Son-Aye, Daniel Byer-Aye, Joyce Gilmore-Aye, Robert Sweet-Aye.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:13 pm.