

COMPLIANCE

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to Town Hall a week ago and noted that, in addition to the lack of a public ADA bathroom, counters where people pay bills were all above the level of someone in a wheelchair and there was not enough space in front of the Town Clerk's counter for a wheelchair to turn. These problems, along with the as-yet-uncorrected handicap parking spaces at Town Hall, were identified by Cheryl Killam, the former disability specialist for the State of New Hampshire, when she investigated Hanson's original complaint years ago. "The town is not supposed to be using space that is not accessible," Hanson emphasized.

MILFOIL

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new infestations appeared this August within the Ossipee Lake system. One was the first ever found on the main lake. "Ten or 11 rivers are affected now, too," he added.

Statewide surveys completed by the Ossipee Lake Alliance (OLA) tracking the amount of money spent around the state to control the invasive weed established that about \$1 million were raised in the effort. The group was able to get information on about two-thirds of the state's water bodies, says Reynolds. Others are not receiving the benefit of any organized citizen attention.

According to the OLA findings, about 10 percent of the total dollars devoted to the cause came from the state, about 45 percent from the towns and 45 percent from individuals.

While Reynolds estimates the total amount needs to double to around \$2 million this year to address the infestation, milfoil crowds out native species and its rapid growth reduces water clarity which affects the fish population. It can also have a deleterious effect on property values and on tourism in a state that relies heavily on property taxes and outdoor recreation revenues. Christensen says that some say maybe \$7 million over a five-year period would be sufficient.

Whatever the figure, one sure thing is that it's time to invest more in control efforts.

Bradley says he's always been supportive of protecting water quality and says, "Now that I've seen it first hand, I think it's clear we're going to have to bite the bullet and invest more money." Exactly how to best raise the money is not yet clear, but he's offered to cosponsor legislation to address the issue.

Presently, there is a \$7.50 surcharge on boat registration fees. Raising that

A second issue Hanson has been trying to get addressed were the signs at the entrances to hiking and bike paths completed last year by Pathways of Wolfeboro on land owned by the town and the Lakes Region Conservation Trust. The signs state, "No Motorized Vehicles," a blanket exclusion not allowed by ADA since it would ban use of electric powered wheelchairs as well as other powered mobility devices used by the handicapped.

In trying to get someone from Pathways of Wolfeboro to respond to this sign issue Hanson found that there is no such legal entity as "Pathways of Wolfeboro." Yet a check he wrote to Pathways was accepted by the Went-

Other issues

Later, at the end of the meeting, Hanson took advantage of the second Public Comment period at the Aug. 15 meeting to add three more ADA issues.

The first was Mast Land-

worth Economic Development Corp, which is acting as the group's fiscal agent. He warned that the town was liable for any issues that arose in connection with Pathways and cited the case of the outdoor skating rink in North Conway which may have to be closed due to liability and other issues.