

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2009
(Reviewed and Pre-approved by BOD for the 4/16/09 Meeting)

The Board of Directors met at the Lake Sunapee Savings Bank Community Room on Thursday, February 19, 2009. Present were President Nancy Stetson, Vice President Terri Bingham, Treasurer Jean-Pierre Paquette, Directors Bob Brown, Dick Denise, John Harris and Secretary Betty Brown. Absent were Directors Scott Brown and Debbie Hunt.

With a quorum present, Nancy Stetson opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

The secretary distributed printouts of draft board minutes from the November 6, 2008 Board Meeting. The minutes had been emailed to the Board prior to tonight's meeting for review. Members will contact her with any changes within 7 days. The minutes will then be posted on the web.

2009 Membership Report: As of this meeting, we are in receipt of 11 renewals, representing 4 families. Contributions above and beyond membership dues received thus far total \$100 this year. The 2009 Membership Application form is included in the Fall/Winter Newsletter. Members may also renew online for convenience and mail their renewal check to MPPA.

The newsletter is nearing completion. It will be emailed to the Board for review, and then mailed out to the membership.

Treasurer's Report: We were just advised that AG Edwards has been absorbed by Wachovia Securities (now Wells Fargo). JP handed out printed copies of his report and discussed our financial status. The MPPA Balance Sheet as of February 3, 2009 shows Total Assets and Total Liabilities & Equity - \$6,598.51. JP has added two graphs and pie charts to his report showing Income and Expense Summaries by Month, January through December 2008.

Membership fees will be sent out next week to NH Lakes (\$300) and the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust (\$100), as well as a contribution of \$100 to Lake Sunapee Protective Association.

Terri Bingham asked what amount is left in each MPPA Donation category from 2008. JP will review the amount remaining in the three categories (Capital Reserve Fund, Lake Host Program and New DES Tributary Water Quality Testing Program). There are still expenses to be submitted to the treasurer for calendars, the water sampling equipment purchased, and some minor Lake Host expenses for postage, copying and plant samples.

Water Quality: We have received the Volunteer Lake Assessment Report from the Department of Environmental Services. Prior to the meeting Nancy had emailed the Board a report copy to be reviewed for discussion at this meeting. Terri Bingham noted

that there were some inconsistencies in the report. Dick Denise pointed out that MPPA Water Monitors have received fine remarks in the report for the excellent job they are doing. Among many other things, the report did talk about erosion. It was also recommended that their DES biologist should come out to Messer Pond in June this year rather than later in the summer. They also want us to test for Chloride in 2009. The testing of Chloride samples is done free of charge by the DES Limnology Center in Concord. The report also mentions there is some concern about upstream erosion. Dick Denise said it would be nice to know why the conductivity is going bad. The report did mention that new development could be a cause; also nearby road de-icing material used during the winter such as sodium chloride. Board members have a number of questions regarding this year's report and will talk with DES about our questions.

Tributary Testing: Nancy and Terri learned that the LSPA Lab at Colby-Sawyer is only open May through October when they met with Bonnie Lewis at the lab last fall. Bonnie recommended we contact Sara Steiner at DES and ask her to get involved in the tributary testing plan. She could also tell us how to go about this testing. John Harris will contact Sara and set it up. There are three new tributary testing sites. Chloride testing should be done after the spring snow melt. We need to know whether Chloride bottles should be acquired from Bonnie Lewis at the LSPA Lab or from NH DES. John will ask Bonnie about this.

Dick Denise brought up several other questions on the report. He asked about the tea color of the water. John said that this is tannic acid from pine trees, etc. Bob Brown mentioned that many years ago there was a saw mill at the site of the two log cabins at the County Road end of the pond. At that time we had the problem of the sawdust from the logs at the saw mill. Dick also had questions about Transparency and what might help with this. He mentioned a couple of ideas. Decreased oxygen – We have several questions about this for DES. The biologist will be asked to come in June to determine if oxygen is depleted earlier in the year than when it was measured last August. In our discussion of the report, some good questions were brought up which will be referred to DES. John said he will contact Sara Steiner about having the biologist come out to Messer Pond in June.

Nancy reports that we have purchased a Kemmerer Bottle (\$519) and Secchi Disk (\$49) for a total of \$568.00 for use in monitoring water quality. She brought this equipment to the meeting, leaving it with John Harris for his team's use when water sampling. The water monitors are very pleased to have this equipment. It will ensure a more accurate sampling, making the job easier and more efficient. Currently, we must borrow equipment from LSPA when it is available. Nancy will look into the purchase of stainless or brass chain to be used with this equipment.

Weed Management: Terri Bingham has been notified the application for a Lake Host grant from NH Lakes is due March 23rd. Hopefully we'll receive a \$1000 grant again this year, but no more than that. Betty Brown moved that Terri file the application with NH Lakes to help us with the 2009 Messer Pond Lake Host Program. This motion was seconded by Dick Denise, with all members in favor.

The New London Town Meeting is March 11th and the invitation to apply for the Town Milfoil grant goes out to lake associations after Town meeting. However, Terri will prepare a letter filing for this year's grant which will be submitted after the Town meeting takes place. We will ask the Town of New London for a \$4000 grant. We would like to begin our Lake Host program this year with coverage on Memorial Day, weekends in June, and then beginning July 4th, we would hope to have our paid lake hosts in place for the summer, along with volunteer lake hosts. The hours would be 7am-7pm, with three 4-hour shifts each day. The hours can be adjusted once we have received the grants and know the amount of funding we have to work with. The busiest days last summer were Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Weed Watchers: There are a couple of spots to patrol on the Forest Acres side of the pond where we could use more help. Actually we can always use more volunteers who are willing to be trained as weed watchers.

Dick Denise reports that we had a good group of volunteers last November for the Fall Cleanup Day covering a few areas on the north side of the pond. We will choose an earlier date next year for the Fall Cleanup, most likely during the month of October. Although the culverts were being cleaned out after a freeze, it was still beneficial since a couple of residents (Gordon Bingham and Frank King) had cleaned out culverts near their homes earlier in the fall. Gordon also cleaned out culverts on Fieldstone Lane as well as those on his road, and all we had to do was pick up the debris. Other culverts took a bit of elbow grease along with the aide of Bruce Stetson's tractor. This spring we will plan a bigger cleanup. The Messer Pond Spring Cleanup Day will be Saturday, May 2, celebrating May Day. A committee will work on a list of things to be done. Probably we'll do a quick survey of culverts beforehand, making contact with Richard Lee again. Last fall he offered to send a Town truck around to pick up the piles we leave on the side of the road after our spring cleanup. JP offered the use of his construction trailer again. Association members will again be invited to help. Nancy will contact Richard Lee and invite him to get together with a few of us to discuss the areas we will be working on. In the meantime, the following questions will be part of the list for Richard, such as whether the Town will supply grass seed to us to vegetate areas suggested earlier by Richard Lee, serving as buffers for road runoff. The common lot is one of the areas mentioned in our Watershed Report to be seeded. This too needs to be discussed with Richard. Also last year the Town did put down some knitpack/hardpack/bluestone on Forest Acres Road and it worked well. We should ask if they will do it again this spring. Another question to be added to Richard Lee's list is the possible plan to cut back the shoulder and re-route the drainage at the south corner of Fieldstone and County Roads (another suggestion when we met with him in the fall) to better manage storm water flow. The property mentioned on the corner of Fieldstone and County Roads is not owned by the Town of New London/NLCC. It is private property. If permission of the property owner is to be requested to cut back the corner, is this something the Town should do? It was suggested that the best time to catch Richard is at the start of his day. Nancy will touch base with him regarding our Spring Cleanup Day questions.

Messer Pond Trail: Bob Brown said the Conservation Commission work planned for this spring on the Messer Pond Trail will be cutting some brush on the trail to make it more accessible, and installing some signs on County Road. If anyone is interested in helping with some light work on this project, they should contact Bob Brown, rsbski@gmail.com or 526-6240. The trail is a short walk, but it gets wet pretty quickly, so helpers will need to wear waterproof boots. Nancy suggested that perhaps the Membership should be solicited for help on this project. There also may be some boardwalk work under consideration for this trail, but it will need to be prioritized based on available funding and people power.

Clark Pond Trail: Bob reported that seven bridges need to be built for the Clark Pond Trail. One will be a 25 foot bridge. The Town/NL Conservation Commission may possibly request some Federal Funding which would be very specific to “ADA” so that the trail could at least be partially “handicap accessible” which would no doubt include bridges and walkways. A director commented that this area would be great for cross-country skiing.

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Lake Inventory: Nancy said this inventory is a tool, and it was discussed at the Watershed Conference that Nancy, Terri and Betty had attended in November. The purpose of this Inventory is to primarily serve as a planning and educational tool; and should be used to gather basic information about a specific watershed with the understanding that it will be utilized when developing a lake management plan. Laura Alexander presented this at the conference. The inventory is a number of questions about the lake, and it will help us to come up with our own Messer Pond Watershed Management Plan. As mentioned earlier in the meeting, we need to contact Laura at Colby-Sawyer College and request some help in the form of a third-year student project with our watershed plan. Nancy suggests that we read through the whole document first, and then maybe begin using it. Dick Denise questioned if there isn't a faster way to accomplish a watershed management plan. Nancy responded that this may not be the fastest way, but that it is fully endorsed by DES. It gives us internet links as resources. This is a low key type ongoing project. Nancy will send the Board the link to this inventory document. We will then decide at our next meeting what we want to do. She asked that we read through the document first; then we can communicate on it.

Fish & Wildlife: Since Scott Brown was absent, Bob reported that the cleaning of duck boxes took place a week ago by a few Conservation Commission members. MPPA had three duck boxes, but now there are only two. Three more posts were also put in, but the markers are now gone. We have two in use ready to go. Members inquired if the duck boxes were inhabited at this time. Bob said there were no wood ducks there yet. However, it usually takes three years or so after the box is in place before you will notice any activity. Nancy mentioned that Frank King has put up a duck box on his property.

The subject of the dying tree on Blueberry Island came up again. DES does not want to see the tree fall into the pond. There seems to be some disagreement about whether or not the tree is dying. It was mentioned that it's within 250 feet of the water and subject to the rules of the Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act. Also, the island belongs to the

Town. Perhaps if DES feels it should come down, they will write a letter to the Town requesting it be removed. It was agreed that DES will be contacted about this request.

Last year several residents were interested in the Association having a Blueberry Bush sale again this year. Betty will send out an email to the membership asking if there is interest in the purchase of plants again. However, if we do this, it must be organized by early April since these plants need to be put in the ground in May. All orders must be prepaid. If there is interest, we can then follow up with suppliers to see what the best price would be.

Social/Education, Winter Event: Since Debbie Hunt was unable to attend this meeting, we discussed the Moonlight Ski and Snowshoe Event, originally scheduled for February, which has been changed to a tentative date of March 8 or 13 (the next full moon). Betty will send out an email to the MPPA membership again announcing the event when we have the definite date, and Nancy will post it on the web.

We were asked to mention that Debbie is looking for educational program ideas. The Board discussed possible speakers/programs that would help educate our members and neighbors in conjunction with our watershed management plan work. Professor Laura Alexander at Colby-Sawyer might be a speaker at one of our programs or Membership meeting, or possibly have some suggestions for us. She may also be able to help us by allowing one of her third year Environmental Science students do a student study project working with us on the Messer Pond Watershed Study Management Plan. Nancy said she will contact Laura. Terri will also call Andrea LaMoreaux, Education Director at NH LAKES, regarding possible speakers.

Our 2009 membership application will be going out with our newsletter. We hope that members will return their renewals as early as possible so that we can plan our programs for the year. Our fundraising projects have been doing well. Our 2009 MPPA Calendar sold out and the Tee-shirts have been very popular. Betty mentioned that she would like to see our note card sales increase in number because there would be no cost outlay. We have the stock in place. The last batch has been moving slower than usual. Perhaps it is time to have a two for one sale. Betty will do a count of what is currently available and then we will advertise a note card sale to the membership.

Nancy reminded us that the next Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition Meeting will take place on Thursday, March 12. Terri, Dick and Nancy have been attending these meetings. Four out of the six towns represented in SAWC are working on a Warrant Article. They want to get towns together, and have members of planning boards and selectmen work on the eight points SAWC has come up with. It will be a uniform type of approach after town meetings are over. The plan is to use advanced towns, sharing resources. All of the eight points involve expenditures. The SAWC meetings have been good for networking.

We were reminded that the 2009 NH LAKES Congress, being held on June 26 this year, will be in New London at Colby-Sawyer College. Terri mentioned possibly planning a

social gathering for the NH LAKES people. It would be nice if the area lake associations planned this get together, perhaps having a tour of the local lakes and the participation of some Town officials of the area. It might even be an item Bob Brown could raise at the next Conservation Commission meeting. Any plan to have a social gathering would have to be in collaboration with Jared Teutsch, President of NH LAKES. Terri will contact his office and speak with Andrea LaMoreaux.

Nancy has suggested adding two board meetings to our present schedule this year. One would be Thursday, July 16, prior to our annual meeting since we will need to tie down the details of that meeting. The other would take place after the annual meeting on Thursday, August 20, for the new Board. She knows that summer is a busy time of year but would like everyone to think about adding these two meetings. We'll discuss this at our next meeting. Terri proposed that we definitely meet on the July 16 date since we normally add a planning meeting prior to the membership meeting. There was no opposition to her proposal.

Other: Terri Bingham asked where we are on the change in tax status. JP said that he has done some low key due diligence and that more needs to be done. He did report on this at our last meeting. JP also said that at face value, it doesn't sound like such a big deal, but we need to talk with other associations who have completed the process. He has already spoken with Pleasant Lake and had reported on this at an earlier meeting, but perhaps we can talk further with PLPA and others. JP said the cost factor wasn't bad for the filing, but in discussion with a Pleasant Lake member, it was mentioned to him that they had spent \$5,000 in legal fees and that was over and above some pro bono work done by an attorney member. It doesn't seem necessary that it should be that expensive to complete the process, but we will do some more footwork and find out whether or not it makes sense for this Association to change its status.

In discussion Terri mentioned that a year or so ago, she and Betty had attended a session at one of the NH LAKES Congress meetings where tax status was briefly discussed. We will look back and find the name of the two presenters of that session as well as any notes that may be helpful to us.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, at 7:00 PM.

There being no further business, Nancy asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Dick Denise and seconded by Terri Bingham. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Brown
MPPA Secretary