

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 16, 2009
(Reviewed and Approved by BOD at the 6-18-09 Meeting)

The Board of Directors met at the Lake Sunapee Savings Bank Community Room on Thursday, April 16, 2009. Present were President Nancy Stetson, Vice President Terri Bingham, Directors Scott Brown, Bob Brown, Dick Denise and Secretary Betty Brown. Absent: Treasurer Jean-Pierre Paquette and Directors John Harris and Debbie Hunt.

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

The pre-approved minutes of February 19, 2009, have been posted on the website.

It was confirmed that last Saturday, April 11th, was the official ice-out day on Messer Pond.

Betty Brown gave a brief report on the status of the 2009 membership renewals. As of this meeting, we have received a total of 22 memberships. There are 21 renewals and 1 new membership, Finn Brown, Henniker, NH. The 2009 membership dues total \$615.00 and contributions received thus far total \$490.00.

The newsletter schedule was discussed and it was decided that we would have a deadline of May 11 for all articles in order to get this issue out in June.

Although the treasurer was unable to attend the meeting, he had provided the board with financial printouts. Our Total Liabilities & Equity is \$7,199.36. The current financials do not include expenses for the website, newsletter and materials purchased for our fundraisers. Terri mentioned here that our Milfoil letter request to the Town of New London was submitted in March and there has been no answer thus far. We must pay NH LAKES our pledged hard cash amount before the start of the paid lake host season. Terri will discuss this later in the meeting.

Nancy advised that Treasurer JP Paquette is very busy taking care of the bookkeeping for MPPA and cannot spare the amount of time it would take working on a possible change in status to 501 (c) 3. He has already spent a good deal of time contacting the various State agencies and other lake associations. Also, he has pulled together for the board background information from our association's last endeavor to become a 501 (c) 3 organization. JP has done wonders for this organization with his new electronic reporting system and more recently, the income and expense summary pie and graph charts so that all members may have a clear understanding of where we are financially. We thank JP for all his work. He is an important part of our board.

In discussion of this possible change in tax status, Bob Brown suggested that we table this task unless it could be chaired by a member outside of the board. Terri Bingham had

found a bit more information from a conference several of us had attended last year. As a 501 (c) 3 organization, any items being sold must be clearly marked that the funds raised will be used only for the protection of the pond. We all decided if we go forward with this endeavor, it must be a clearly defined task. Dick Denise mentioned there is always the possibility that with a change in status someone might be willing to give a large donation to the organization. All directors were in agreement that prior to the annual meeting, we will send out an email to the entire membership asking if anyone is willing to take on this task.

Water Quality: John Harris will request the State biologist come in June to help us with the tributary testing. Since John was to arrive later in our meeting, Nancy advised there will be a 2009 Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Workshop on Saturday, May 16th. People interested in going should register by May 8th. Four board members are interested in attending. Nancy reported that she had been looking into the cost of measuring chains for use with the Kemmerer Bottle. The company we bought our water sampling equipment from also sells brass chain but it is very expensive. She has found another type of chain which is much less expensive, \$1 to \$2 per foot for sash chain or flat link plumbers chain. She will check with John Harris regarding this. The cost would be less than \$100 for the amount of chain we would need. Terri suggested we ask Bonnie Lewis at the LSPA lab what she would recommend. Terri Bingham then moved that the president check with Bonnie Lewis at LSPA for the most viable substitute for brass chain for the Kemmerer Bottle and that an amount up to \$150 could be spent on this. Scott Brown seconded the motion. With all directors in agreement, it was so voted.

Weed Management: Terri updated the board on our application process to NH LAKES and the Town of New London. Lake Hosting: She applied to NH LAKES for \$1000 for our Lake Host Program. However, we were one boat short last year in the number of boat inspections required to receive the \$1000 grant. We had inspected 100 boats and needed 101. As a result, we have received \$750. She was told if NH LAKES does have more money, we might be able to receive more. However, we shouldn't count on that. We applied to the Town for a \$4000 Milfoil grant. If we get considerably less money from the Town of New London, we may have to cut back our hours on lake hosting. Terri has been working with the Lake Sunapee Protective Association Point Person, Geoff Lizotte, on sharing their paid lake hosts this year. We will be using several of their people. Last year's Lake Host Linda Terrio will be coming back this year. We will be using paid lake hosts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 7 AM – 7 PM, and will be dovetailing their schedule. This year we will catch the COA kayaks coming on the pond in June for sure, so we will have a greater number of boats to report inspected. Terri is aware of another group also coming in to kayak this year and will secure the dates for each group.

Weed Watchers are still needed. We could use a couple more people on the Forest Acres side of the pond. Weed watching takes place once a month in June, July, August and September. Dick Denise has volunteered to cover one area on Forest Acres and Bob Brown will also do it early on during June and July.

Nancy reported that Terri Bingham was asked today by Jared Teutsch, NH LAKES President, to become a board member of NH LAKES. All MPPA directors congratulated Terri on being asked. She was taking the request under consideration.

Watershed: The Spring Cleanup email has gone out to the membership. Public Works Director Richard Lee will be able to go around and pick up the debris after the cleanup. Richard had a concern that we monitor carefully what is being picked up. Richard has been asked by Nancy to specify sand, branches, etc. We have been advised that he will also provide some grass seed from Lowes. Scott Brown suggested that a seed dispenser be used for better coverage and would speed up the spreading process. Dick went on to say that we should send out an email to the group so they know ahead of time specifically what should be picked up. Another survey of the culverts will be done this weekend by Dick, Terri and Nancy on Sunday at 11 AM. A final announcement will go out right away.

Bob Brown suggested that we follow up with Mark Hanscom, DOT District 2, Enfield regarding some drainage issues on I-89. There is an issue with Forest Acres Rd. culverts by the brook in front of Bob Brown's property. We also need to talk with the Town about having hardpack/bluestone/better road material, upgrading of gravel road for the protection of the pond. We may want to consider going with an individual warrant article. If there are one or two projects we need to work on, whether it is improved drainage or better material, we should be thinking about a warrant article at Town Meeting. We should also take a look at what was done on Sargent Road. Perhaps we should talk with Richard about a special warrant article earmarked for a special project. Nancy thanked Bob for the good suggestion. She will read through some of the old Town reports.

Oxygenating water: Dick Denise brought to the meeting information on applications to improve water quality in freshwater lakes, ponds and reservoirs. One method seems to be having an air pump on shore which sends out air flow to diffuser areas. This method is used by a company named Vertex Water Features. There is also a solar powered unit, by SolarBee, with a vertical pump on the lower area. The SolarBee incorporates patented near-laminar radial flow technology that provides long-distance circulation (LDC) to improve water quality in freshwater lakes, ponds and reservoirs. Among other benefits, the SolarBee's long-distance circulation prevents and controls harmful blue-green algae blooms, improves dissolved oxygen (DO) and pH levels, prevents accumulation of Mn, Fe, H₂S and methyl mercury from bottom waters, and reduces invasive aquatic weed growth. SolarBee is using LDC to solve water quality problems in a number of places.

Action item: Nancy said we need to get more information from NH DES on our Watershed Report Card.

Water Safety/Fish & Wildlife: Scott Brown reported that our duck boxes have been cleaned (by Scott), the posts are now in and we will need to get out there and maintain them.

Nancy has been reading the Conservation Commission minutes regarding Blueberry Island and the dying tree. She has emailed NH DES as requested at our last meeting. The main issue by Amy Smagula was the root base of the tree on such a small island. We have a problem with roots in the ground; uprooting and rotting are two different things. Nancy feels with our email to NH DES that the matter can be put to rest.

Blueberry Island was discussed regarding our Fourth of July celebrations, and it was mentioned that this island is so small and has taken such a beating over the years, that it really is not the best place for our July 4th celebration. Because of its size, it also is not the safest spot for a large number of people. Perhaps we could have this activity on shore in the future. This will be discussed.

Social/Education: Nancy has contacted CSC Professor Laura Alexander regarding collaborating on an educational event and speaking at our annual meeting. Laura is unable to be our speaker this year. However, she is thinking about collaborating on an educational event. Nancy also checked with her about the possibility of a third year student project, working with us on the Messer Pond Watershed Study Management Plan. Probably this would not happen as a single project, but on a smaller scale, they could include Messer Pond in some way.

NH LAKES has a speakers bureau and they will be contacted regarding our annual meeting and the topic to be covered by their speaker.

Betty has contacted the New London Historical Society again requesting a contract or letter stating the fee and any specifics that need to be in writing for the use of the Meeting House and barn for our annual meeting on July 25th. The Historical Society has us on the schedule for July 25th and a letter contract was to be mailed out to us. We haven't received anything on paper to date. Betty will check on this again.

Website: Nancy reports she has been updating the front page on our website.

Fundraising: We are gathering pictures again for our 2010 MPPA Calendar. We would like to have the calendar ready by September and plan to get more to Morgan Hill Book Store to sell since they have requested additional calendars for 2010 and would like to have them available earlier in the season. We will increase the number of calendars ordered. Sales from note cards and tee-shirts thus far this year total \$130.00.

Blueberry Bush Plants: Betty has spoken with the nursery owner we placed our MPPA group blueberry order with last year and he is willing to allow us the same arrangement we had with him in 2008 as long as we place a minimum order of 50 plants. We would be able to sell the one gallon plants for \$12 each in lots of 5 plants per customer. He needs an answer by May 10th. Once they are ordered, they should be in within a week or so. Betty will check the retail price and confirm the variety is the same as last year and she'll also check with other suppliers on retail prices closer to home.

Nominating Committee: Nancy said Betty had suggested the committee be chaired by a member outside of the board, working with a board committee. The Chair of the Nominating Committee would then present the slate of officers and directors to the membership at the annual meeting. There will definitely be one director's position to fill. Due to his busy schedule, Director Scott Brown will be unable to remain on the board next year. Nancy will speak with a member of the association about chairing the Nominating Committee.

At its next meeting, the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition will discuss the Warrant Article on Workforce Housing in all the towns. The SAWC is thinking of using the Sunapee Watershed Plan to pull people together. They will push for a May event – tie it to erosion and storm water management and will invite other towns. Nancy thanked Terri for this information.

Post meeting note: The regular May meeting of the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition was not held on May 14th. Instead a special program was held on May 21st, The Workforce Housing Workshop. Information and invitations were sent out to the Lake Sunapee watershed town selectboards. There were three speakers who spoke about the purpose and the nexus of workforce housing and land use and conservation.

The 2009 NH Lakes Congress will be held at Colby-Sawyer College on Friday, June 26th. There is a fee schedule on line. If you sign up early by June 12th, there is a price break. They are also offering a special price for town officials of \$20. June Fichter of LSPA is going to send out information on this event to area townspeople and all the Lake Sunapee Watershed towns. Terri asked if this board would approve funding for two tickets for our Town officials. The theme this year is “Partnerships Protecting New Hampshire’s Lakes” and it will be a wonderful opportunity for lake associations, State agencies personnel and political leaders to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

Bob Brown moved that we offer up two free tickets to Town employees. This motion was seconded by Betty Brown with all directors in agreement, and so voted. Nancy will follow up by communicating with the Town, asking if anyone is interested.

Terri Bingham moved that we add two meetings to the schedule: July 16th - for board preparation prior to the annual meeting and August 20th - for the orientation of new board members. The motion was seconded by Dick Denise. With all directors in agreement, it was so voted.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Brown
MPPA Secretary