



Messer Pond Protective Association
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Approved at the July 20, 2014 Annual Meeting

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 20, 2013
4:00 – 5:30 PM

The 17th Annual Messer Pond Protective Association Meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm. A brief tribute was made to member Jim Byrne, who passed away last October, and to Bruce Haskell, early Messer Ponder since 1957 and founding member of MPPA, who passed away in January.

- 2013 Ballot. The ballot of officers was presented, after which a motion was made and seconded to accept as presented. The following officers were then unanimously elected and officially sworn in to serve a one-year term for the 2013-2014 season, effective July 20, 2013:

President:	John Doyle
Vice-President:	Dave Hennig
Secretary:	Alison Hennig
Treasurer:	Dick Denise
Director:	Rody Denise
Director:	Sue Maguire Shock
Director:	Scott Ellison
Director:	Barbara Troxell
Ex-Officio:	Nancy Stetson

- Minutes of 2012 Annual Meeting. Minutes of last year’s Annual Meeting (7/28/12), were unanimously approved as presented.
- Amendment to Bylaws. A motion was made to change the bylaws to allow the Annual Meeting to take place in July or August; currently the bylaws state the meeting must take place in July. The preference is to continue holding the meeting in July but the Board would like the option for August in case of difficulty securing a meeting location. The motion was then seconded and unanimously approved.

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- **Signage.** A proposal was made to erect two signposts on County Road which would each hold two signs, one north facing near Tracy Road and the other south facing near Burpee Hill Road, to announce (1) ENTERING MESSER POND WATERSHED Please HELP KEEP IT CLEAN, and (2) THIS PORTION OF COUNTY RD ADOPTED BY MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION. Discussion: Nancy displayed a prototype of the signs. Maximum cost is \$500 for the four signs. She also explained the town-wide volunteer “Keeping New London Presentable” campaign, which MPPA volunteers have been participating in by picking up trash at least once a month during three seasons. Bob Brown suggested adding the MPPA website address on the sign. He also provided contact information for a sign company that could produce the signs at a reasonable cost. A suggestion was made to consider these signs and trash pickup in the future on Bog Road as well. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to purchase the signs with the website address added, and the town would then erect them on County Road, pending approval by the New London Board of Selectmen.

Next, a proposal was made to install two signs on either end of Forest Acres Road and two signs on either end of Fieldstone Lane to request that pet owners to pick up their pet waste. The sign would read, YOU ARE IN THE MESSER POND WATERSHED Please PROTECT THE POND BY PICKING UP AFTER YOUR PET. Maximum cost for each of the two sets of signs is \$300. Pet waste is detrimental to any watershed as it contributes both total phosphorous and E. coli to the waterbody via stormwater runoff. Dog walkers who do not pick up their waste are breaking the law and allowing pollution into the pond. Discussion followed about the necessity and desirability of such signs. Some of the comments and concerns included:

- Signs are not in keeping with rural character of Messer Pond;
- Individual homeowners could post a small sign on their own property;
- Homeowners should provide awareness to their guests who bring pets;
- More education efforts could be undertaken;
- MPPA funds could be better spent.

Two separate votes were taken regarding pet signage on Forest Acres, and on Fieldstone Lane. In both cases, the majority votes were Against the signage. Both motions were defeated.

- Individual reports by outgoing board members were presented in a PowerPoint presentation available on the MPPA website at <http://www.messerpond.org>. Following is a brief summary of the reports.
 - a) Vice President: Terri discussed the success of the lake hosting and weed watching programs. These protective programs have kept Messer Pond free of exotic “aquatic nuisance species”. She shared statistics regarding the volunteer and paid lake hosts and boat inspections. New Hampshire is experiencing a growing threat from Asian Clam, Chinese Mystery Snail, Zebra & Quagga Mussels, Didymo and Spiny Water Flea. NH Lakes and NH DES are encouraging a new educational program called “Clean, Drain, and Dry” to ensure that microscopic invasives are not transported on boats. Volunteers were all thanked for their efforts. We continually need volunteers, so please consider signing up for these important programs.

On behalf of the MPPA Board of Directors and entire membership, outgoing VP Terri was given a huge thanks for her many years of service on the Board, and was presented with a gift.

- b) Treasurer: Dick presented the profit and loss balance sheet, and reported that we currently have assets of \$10,533 in the bank from donations, member dues and town milfoil protection grant. Dick also reported on the 2nd year of NH Lakes Lake Conservation Corps Stormwater Management Projects. Three additional properties on the pond were treated to stormwater management installations with labor

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provided by New London Boy Scout Troop 71 and friends. This brings the total to seven properties, with four being installed the prior summer.

- c) Secretary: Alison reported that as of today we have 102 members, plus any renewals that came in today. The updated membership list will be distributed after the renewals are processed. We welcomed our newest members, Doug and Pam Adamian, and Robert and Tina Morris and family. Minutes of meetings are available on the MPPA website.
- d) Watershed Management: Dave reported on the recent completion of a Messer Pond overlay on the Assessor's database which includes 135 members and 55 addresses. This list of homeowners will be used for educational mailings about the Messer Pond watershed. Dave also reported a successful Spring Cleanup.
- e) Education & Activities: Barbara reported a successful 4th of July Barbecue and Regatta with record attendance of 78. This year the two events were combined because Labor Day weekend was losing favor for the regatta. The Fall Luncheon was held at Sunapee View Bed & Breakfast and was also a great success. There was no Holiday Wine & Cheese this past year due to lack of a host home.
- f) Fish, Wildlife & Safety: Regarding wildlife issues, Dave reported that the Canada Geese are not a nuisance this year. MPPA hired a professional trapper to live relocate a nuisance beaver that had caused some minor local tree damage.
- g) Water Quality: John reported a decline in water quality from the state VLAP reports, which indicate rising levels of phosphorous, pH and chlorophyll to the point of Messer Pond now being designated as "impaired". Due to this trend, the Board proposes undertaking an engineered Watershed Management Plan to identify sources and solutions. The cost could be from \$10K to \$30K over a period of 1 to 1.5 years, with the lower figure representing significant volunteer participation in portions of the study. We would intend to apply for grants to offset part of the cost. The study will help determine if there are actions that can be taken to correct the problem, such as reducing road salting by the Town, reducing local use of fertilizers, etc. The membership was asked for opinions on whether we should continue best management practices and monitoring, or to engage a firm to perform/develop a Watershed Management Plan. Following discussion, there was generally favorable response and support for going forward with the Watershed Management Plan from the membership.

Outgoing President Nancy Stetson was praised for her many years of service on the Board and was given a gift from the MPPA Board. She will continue to participate on the Board for the next year in *ex-officio* capacity.

Board members and volunteers were all thanked for a successful year, and the meeting adjourned at 5:30, followed by a potluck dinner.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
Secretary, Messer Pond Protective Association

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