

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

Present for the meeting:

Nancy Stetson, President
Terri Bingham, Vice President
Dick Denise, Treasurer
Dave Hennig, Director
John Doyle, Director
Marie Rossachacj, Director
Alison Hennig, Secretary

Absent:

Barbara Troxell, Director
Rody Denise, Director

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum present. Bullet style minutes are presented below.

- Minutes from the November 13, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved by the Board via email and have been posted to the MPPA website. The 2012 Annual Meeting minutes are to be voted on at the next Annual Meeting in July 2013.
- Business Items
 - A) GuideStar Registration for Chase Community Giving Program. Nancy missed the year-end deadline for 2012 and will complete the application by next month for 2013.
 - B) New London 2012 Annual Report Submission. Board members unanimously agreed that Terri did an outstanding job with the Messer Pond submission for the Annual Report, to be published in May. She mentioned that the Town is always looking for more pictures in case anyone wants to share theirs.
 - C) 2013 Membership Letter. The Membership Letter is usually sent in the spring and Nancy said the goal is to get this year's letter out by May. Dave suggested a separate meeting to formulate MPPA mission, education, member recruitment and watershed matters in more detail, which can then be shared in the newsletter. Dave has done a lot of work on an overlay of properties within the watershed, going through the Town map and making corrections to about 50 properties and locating missing ones, and these corrections have also been made by the Assessor on the Town map. In addition, Dave has obtained an electronic version of the Assessor's Excel database which he is using to prepare a mailing list for our Watershed. Dick Denise started this process during his tenure, and once complete, MPPA will be the first fully mapped and identified Watershed in the region which will be very helpful for educational purposes and soliciting members. Dave will give the completed mail merge list to Nancy in the near future. The Board thanked Dave for his efforts, and we

all agreed that this is a huge accomplishment, putting MPPA ahead of other protective associations in watershed matters. Nancy asked board members to think about what they might like to see in the newsletter; suggestions included the watershed map to reinforce Messer Pond as a resource to be valued, best management practices, septic issues, lawn maintenance, and highlighting MPPA's 501c(3) status to boost donations from people who do not join.

D) Next Board President and Vice-President. Nancy and Terri have both announced that they will retire from their positions as President and Vice-President, respectively, at the end of the current term. They are actively seeking interested individuals to fill these roles. Most if not all of the other Board members have agreed to continue in their current roles.

- Membership. Alison reported the current membership of 131 members. After a question was raised about what period of time is covered by dues, Nancy clarified that dues cover the current calendar year and must be paid by the Annual Meeting in July in order for a member to vote. She will make sure this information is readily available on the MPPA website.

- Finances.

A) 2012 Treasurer's Report. Dick reported the end of year bank balance was \$8,366, and the current balance is \$10,532. He shared a report comparing the 2011 and 2012 finances. He is in the process of switching some of the classes and subclasses in the accounting software where it makes sense to do so, and any trivial amounts on the balance sheet will be transferred to the General Fund. Nancy reminded Dick that our donations to a) Loon Preservation Committee, b) New Hampshire Lakes, c) Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, and d) Lake Sunapee Protective Association are to go out by April 1. Dick will prepare these checks by the end of this month and give to Nancy to go out with a letter. John had suggested a donation on behalf of MPPA for Bruce Haskell, who helped organize MPPA in the 1990s and recently passed away. After brief discussion, board members preferred to have a memorial moment at the Annual Meeting for Bruce with reference to the family charity, rather than setting a precedent with a monetary donation.

B) 2012 Tax Forms due May 15. Nancy will file the 990-N by e-Postcard, and Nancy and Dick will work together on the State NHCT-2A form, due May 15.

- Weed Management

A) Lake Hosting. Terri filed the 2014 grant application and requested \$3,225. We will be receiving the 2013 grant money in May.

B) Weed Watching. Terri reminded the Board that weed watching season begins in May/June. This year we need to ask for new volunteers to cover for people who no longer wish to weed watch, either in the annual newsletter or via blast email. She again mentioned that it qualifies as a community service project to fulfill high school students' community service requirement.

C) Milfoil Crisis Prize Meeting. Terri has touched base with the organization that donated this prize regarding an educational meeting on weed mapping. They prefer a spring date, and Terri will try to pin down something specific. As we previously discussed, we may wish to invite representatives from other lake associations who may have interest to attend this meeting. We could use this service to monitor our native milfoil and incorporate pictures for comparison over time. She will email the Board once she has some proposed dates.

- Water Quality. Due to unfavorable findings in our water quality analysis, including increased turbidity, conductance and phosphorous, John recommended that we schedule an in-person meeting with Sara Steiner at the State. We have had a large spike in total phosphorous, an occurrence that also happened in 2006-2008 timeframe but not as bad and the readings came down. This time it has gone above the satisfactory range and has not come down. While we know bogs are acidic due to decaying matter, and that Messer Pond is getting a lot of storm water runoff, it would be helpful to explore causes and remedies. In addition, we may find ways to apply for grants. Our concern is that the pond is already mesotrophic, and we would not like to see it deteriorate further. Dave commented that it is clear the pond is letting out better water than it is taking in, and asked if we would be allowed to dig wells for springs to get more fresh water. John hoped we could lay out a case for some remedial measures. He will set up the meeting with Sara and let the board members know the date; Nancy and Dave want to be included in the meeting.

- Watershed Management

A) Lake Conservation Corps Project. Nancy recently emailed the membership to solicit suggested stormwater management projects for this summer, and so far she has not heard from anyone. The best projects are containments that slow down storm water flows. John Doyle may have one for his culvert. Once we have a list of projects, then Andrea and Robie from NH Lakes will come to evaluate and then make appropriate selections.

B) Adopt County Road for Trash Cleanup. Terri reports that we are on the Town's list as part of the "Keep New London Presentable" campaign for trash pickup along County Road from Burpee Hill Road to Tracy Road. If there is interest, we may consider also cleaning up Bog Road at least near the boat ramp. Terri indicates we need to get a schedule of volunteers for cleanup at least once per month. We also discussed whether we can get a sign that says something along the lines of "Welcome to Messer Pond Watershed – This section of road maintained by MPPA", and there was consensus that we should have two signs at either end of County Road.

C) Colby-Sawyer Water Quality Project. Dave reported that he has not spent a great deal of time on this, but decided it was best to have our meeting with Sara Steiner before continuing to approach the college; however, he has gotten a favorable response from the college so far about having them conduct a water quality project at Messer Pond.

D) Messer Pond Trail. In November the New London Conservation Commission completed a project that removed storm damage from the Messer Pond Trail and Natural Area. The end of the trail to the shoreline was rerouted so that the entire trail is on Town land. In addition, Dave recently cut a new cross-country ski trail near the old beaver lodge connecting to the Messer Pond Trail. He mapped it in pdf format for inclusion in the Annual Newsletter.

E) Spring Clean-Up. The tentative date for Spring Clean-Up is April 20th, with a contingency date of April 27th.

- Fish & Wildlife

A) Beaver(s). As discussed at the last meeting, we may have a beaver problem come spring as evidenced by the new beaver lodge, and Marie reported that if a beaver needs to be removed it must be done humanely. Dave investigated a company called Critter Control, which relocates beavers (and other animals) to areas where people want beaver for natural ponds, and the cost is about \$400 to \$500 per animal. Marie was familiar with this company and agreed that they do a good job.

B) Geese. Geese are migratory birds and a permit is required for removal. It is critical that a removal company comes at the right time, otherwise the removal is not humane. For geese, the eggs are oiled so they do not hatch. After ice-out we will need to locate the nest(s), and Marie suggests disturbing the nest as much as possible. Dave will get a proposal from Critter Control for both beaver and goose removal. Dick will ask Bill Shucart for a donation for goose removal since he expressed strong opinions on goose removal at last year's annual meeting.

- Education & Activities

A) Hat & Glove Collection for Needy. This collection is normally done in conjunction with the Holiday Wine & Cheese Gathering, but since the holiday event was not held this year Barbara coordinated this collection separately and made the donation to VNA.

B) July 4th. This item will be discussed at the April meeting.

- Calendar Sales. Nancy reported that 62 calendars were sold.

- Other

A) Terri reported that Lucy St. John has proposed some new zoning amendments, which Terri shared with the board via email, but there does not appear to be anything that directly affects MPPA. PSNH will be doing tree cleanup along County Road, which is a scenic road. Along these lines, Dave asked members what they think about making roads around Messer Pond low salt/sand areas during winter storms. He added that the Town is breaking their own zoning regulations by plowing and spreading salt within the wetlands buffer. Members agreed it is a balancing act between safety and lake preservation when it comes to salt and sand on our roadways. He may talk to Richard Lee in Public Works about this.

- Board Meeting Schedule. The remainder of meetings for 2013 is as follows: 4/9/13, 6/11/13, and 7/20/13 (Annual Meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary