

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 15, 2017

Present:

John Doyle, President
Dick Showalter, Treasurer
Scott Ellison, Director
Sue Shock, Director
Donna Doyle

Absent:

Vacant, Vice President
Vacant - Secretary

Via Conference Call:

Ethan Simon, Director

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum present. Bullet style minutes are presented below. Donna Doyle filled in to help take meeting notes.

- Minutes from the November 16, 2016 meeting were approved as circulated.
- Business Items
 - A. The Annual Town Report for the MPPA was submitted with several pictures of the pond.
- Watershed Plan - Project Status Review
 - A. The full proposal for the Watershed Assistance grant was submitted on 1/29/2017. It is currently being reviewed by the DES. The town has committed to providing equipment and labor to help install the BMPs on County Road. John provided a copy of the letter of support from the Town of New London that was submitted with the grant application.
 - B. As well as discussing the BMP design work with Gabe Bolin, two other firms have been contacted to determine their interest in working on this effort. The two firms have done work in the neighborhood and are familiar with the pond and town. The grant requires that all design work be put out for bid, using the state-approved RFP process.
 - C. There was a general discussion on the other three BMPs development efforts. Some of the points raised were:
 - The overall timeframe of the grant is 2 years (through 12/2018). The Board discussed how to sequence the three efforts, possibly targeting the horse farm BMP first and then the outreach effort to other members in the County Road Brook portion of watershed
 - The Board discussed ideas on structure of an outreach effort and an incentive program to accomplish the goal of enlisting 2 families to participate. The group thought that incentives could be offered to match the design and installation costs.

- The Board stressed the need to develop guidelines on what qualifies as an acceptable project, how to apply, criteria for selection and how to verify long term compliance with the grant goals.
- Scott noted that we should recognize individuals who participate in the effort; writing up the accomplishment in a local publication.
- The Board thought providing some educational opportunities would be beneficial. John mentioned that Wendy Waskin recommended "Soak Up NH" (a DES initiative). This group has a very informative web site and the staff is available to host local seminars on household storm water management.

In conclusion, the group agreed with the incentive approach to enlisting participation. Dick recommended that as a next step, we develop a plan on how tasks will sequence and guidelines that could be handed out and referenced by members interested in participating.

- D. Based on some informal comments at a couple of town meetings, it does not appear that the shoreline overlay district maps will be updated this year.
- E. John mentioned that he has received no answer from any of the emails sent to CSC faculty.
- F. The NHTI project has started and will focus on analyzing the conductance data to determine trends. Sara Steiner has offered her lab to assist in analyzing any samples taken by NHTI at no cost.

There is a second project being started in DES, that may also look at impact of I-89 on several waterbodies, the focus being analysis of mapping data.

Dick suggested that we should inform the LSPA about what we are doing in this area. Ethan thought that it would be appropriate to reach out to discuss follow on project ideas after the initial work is complete.

- Membership/Recruitment.
 - A. The group discussed the idea of sending out a membership renewal letter in the Spring and again prior to annual meeting in order to remind everyone of membership dues. Nancy Stetson volunteered to develop these correspondences.
 - B. The Board discussed the outreach effort proposed in the Watershed Grant and how it coordinates with the membership reminder. John still needs contact Rick Aseltine and Beth Greenawalt. They had volunteered to write newsletters. John Noted that this effort needs to be timed such that hours spent can be used as in-kind match for the grant.
 - C. Dick reviewed the updates that he and Nancy had made to the membership renewal form. He also summarized the guidelines for providing acknowledgements for tax reports purposes.
- Finances.

- A. Dick Showalter reviewed the P&L and Balance sheets for 2016. The MPPA ended 2016 with a balance of \$22,905.

Dick compared the ending balances (gain/loss) for the prior 3 years. He noted that the differences can be due to the general money flow associated with the Watershed Grant and the sale of t-shirts, notecards and calendars.

Dick also pointed out that the revenue from membership dues has been reasonably constant over that span.

The Board approved the 2016 financials and Treasurer's report.

- D. As we start to implement the next phase of the Watershed Management Plan (the implementation of the BMPs in the County Road section), Dick recommended that we need to develop a 2-3 year spending plan so that we can manage and prioritize expenses responsibly.
- E. Dick thought it would be helpful if the MPPA purchased a map of the pond and watershed to provide context and clarity at membership meetings.
- F. The Board approved Gabe Bolin's invoice for September 2016 – February 2017. The Board also approved an expenditure for 10 more hours of consulting time.

- Lake Hosting.

- A. The \$3200 grant request to the town was approved by the New London Budget Committee.

- Weed Management.

- A. No report

- Water Quality.

- A. John Harris will again be performing the bulk of the VLAP water sampling and will be reaching out to DES to schedule a visit and times for dropping off samples. If we need to expand the sampling effort in support of any of the grant work, Keith Greenawalt had mentioned he would be interested. John will follow up if the sampling effort needs to be expanded.

- Watershed Management

- A. Scott Ellison continued his title research on the Messer Pond boat launch. He reviewed the Bog Road file and found no formal plans for the launch. He also mentioned that it appears that language in the Redeke deed makes it subject to the public boat launch.
- B. Spring culvert cleanup – Scott will propose a date after contacting JP and Curt, to see if we will be able to use their equipment again.

- Fish & Wildlife.
 - A. Beaver Activity – The Board discussed the idea of relocating the beaver in the Spring and the need to poll the membership for their input. The cost of relocating should be part of that communication, and John will get a quote.
 - B. Duck boxes – the Elkins Fish and Game is scheduled to be on the pond on 2/19.

- Education & Activities.
 - A. Thursday's Child - We are scheduled to share the evening with the League of NH Craftsmen. Sue was contacted by the League and asked if we would like to partner on the advertising. The Board approved the publishing of 2 ads in the Kearsarge Shopper.

- Other Business
 - A. Annual Meeting – John will contact Terri Bingham to determine the availability of the Baptist Church, being mindful of not conflicting with hospital days
 - B. Board had a brief discussion on the web site and areas that need to be updated. Sue volunteered to help with whatever is decided.

- Board Meeting Schedule.
 - A) Proposed Meeting Schedule for rest of the year:
4/19, 6/21, July/August (?) - Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Doyle