

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012

Present for the meeting:

Nancy Stetson, President  
Terri Bingham, Vice President  
J.P. Paquette, Treasurer  
John Doyle, Director  
Barbara Troxell, Director  
Dick Denise, Director  
Alison Hennig, Secretary

Absent:

Frank King, 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 8, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.
- Business Items  
Our annual meeting venue for the last 3 years has been the New London Historical Society (NLHS). NLHS is imposing 2 new changes for facility rentals: 1) proof of liability insurance and 2) no liquor allowed unless using a licensed bartender. McCrillis & Eldredge, our current provider of D & O insurance, has quoted \$515 for one day of liability insurance for the annual meeting held at NLHS. Another insurance company, E & S Insurance Services - recommended by the NH Center for Non Profits, quoted \$750 annually with a \$250 deductible. The consensus among the group was that we need to switch venues for the Annual Meeting. Therefore, after discussion and vote, it was decided we will use the hall at First Baptist Church for \$25/hr for the meeting, with use of furniture and the kitchen, but no alcoholic beverages will be allowed. Nancy will inform Jody Cooper at NLHS of the change.
- Membership  
Currently member count is 132; an updated membership list was recently distributed to all MPPA families. The PayPal feature on the MPPA website is still not instituted but is forthcoming. Some discussion was held about the annual 2012 membership letter, normally sent out May 1<sup>st</sup>, and the MPPA newsletter, which has not been done in a while. It was suggested we could save money on supplies and postage by combining both letters. After discussion, it was decided that the annual membership letter will be sent out by email, and if memberships are not renewed in a timely manner, those people would get one in the mail. To save time and make the newsletter easier to produce, an on-line e-news style newsletter will replace the current typeset and formatted style newsletter. Those members who do not have email access will receive a paper copy. Those members with email may print out their own hardcopy if they wish. We would like to try to reinstate regular written newsletters, if there is enough interest and volunteers to assist; we may consider phone calls and knocks on doors to get people interested in helping.

- Treasurer's Report

J.P. reported our balance as \$9,075 in the bank. He requested, and it was voted and unanimously approved, to spend current funds as follows: \$100 to Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust, \$100 to Lake Sunapee Protective Association, \$500 to New Hampshire Lakes Association, and \$50 to the Loon Preservation Committee. In July J.P. will be stepping down as Treasurer, and Dick Denise has offered to fill his position, provided he is elected. He and Dick have a meeting with Donna Miller of New London Book Keeping on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> to start reorganizing our QuickBooks database to better comply with the tax structure requirements of a 501(c)(3) organization. Once current Treasurer J.P. Paquette's term expires, the organization will need to purchase the software, as J.P. already had QuickBooks for his business. Dick will attempt to obtain a trial version of QuickBooks for Mac, and apparently it can interchange between PC and Mac. Nancy requested that further discussion on this take place outside the meeting.

- Tax Filings

Nancy reported that May 15<sup>th</sup> is the due date for our first tax filings as a 501(c)(3). NH DOJ Form NHCT-2A and IRS Form 990 are both looking for the same information. Because our income is less than \$50K the minimum IRS filing requirement is the very simplified form 990-N (e-postcard), which is what we filed for the last 2 years. If we file the 990-N then we must also file the full NHCT-2A. On the other hand, if we file the full blown 990 then we simply include a copy of it with a simplified NHCT-2A. Nancy said that it might be best to continue filing the 990-N but she will take another look at both forms and advise. She requested that Dick and/or J.P. ask Donna Miller for her input on which forms to file. She also wanted them to ask Donna about public disclosure of donations above a certain amount.

- Weed Management

We received \$4,000 from the Town for 2012, and the 2013 application for a reduced amount of \$3,225 has been submitted by Terri. The NH Lakes Application is due March 19<sup>th</sup> with an expected grant of \$1300 forthcoming. We will look to increased volunteers for lake hosting this season, especially for Fridays which last year were very slow and not worth hiring a paid host. Last year there were 304 inspections. Terri warned that there has been a new mussel identified in rivers that can attach onto kayaks; it is very hard to see as it is microscopic. It is now time to begin the recruitment campaign for volunteer lake hosts and weed watchers. Most boats, typically fishermen, come in the late afternoon, and on weekends until as late as 8:00 p.m. Discussion was held on recruitment strategies. Two suggestions made were: 1) a reduction of dues by \$10 in exchange for a certain number of volunteer hours, and 2) communicating to all members that we would like each family to sign up for two lake hosting sessions each season. These would help us meet our mission as a lake protective association. Terri stressed that the more inspections and volunteering that we perform, the more grant money we qualify for. Members need to know that we risk losing the benefit of this additional revenue if families do not step up and volunteer.

- **Water Quality**  
John Doyle reported that DES wants at least three water quality sampling sessions per year, and our water sampler John Harris only did two last year. It was decided that we need a second water sampler to serve as back-up when needed. John Doyle has volunteered to be the back-up water sampler with full training on water quality testing procedures. John also reported that there will be a change in VLAP reporting format. He shared sample reports in the proposed new style, and the Board agreed that we like the format with the charts plus text. The format has been shared in focus groups, and John will forward feedback and comments to board members as he receives them.
- **Watershed Management**  
Boy Scout Troop 71 is penciled in for our three Conservation Corps projects to take place on June 9-10 and 16-17. Dick will coordinate with NH Lakes and meet with the volunteers in May before the projects begin to share the work scope. The Troop will be providing its own supervision. Dick announced that Spring Clean-Up will take place on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, with a rain date of May 12<sup>th</sup>.
- **Fish/Wildlife & Water Safety**  
Frank submitted a written report, which will be summarized here. The duck box on Bog Road near the Kaufman's had been weakened by the wind and had to be taken down before it was destroyed. Frank stabilized the duck box with an extra post and it now seems to be okay. He just installed a new duck box for the north end near the inlet stream last week. All 3 duck boxes have been cleaned out and provided with new wood shavings. Decoys will be set out as soon as possible after ice out. The new box at the north end would also be a good place for the decoys this spring, and hopefully the wood ducks will arrive in time to get one of the boxes before the hooded mergansers get all three. Frank asks if anyone had luck catching rainbow or brown trout in Messer Pond. He has tried with no luck. Frank has also found evidence of maple tree destruction right at the culvert on both sides of Bog Road, assumed to be by beavers, and he did see a beaver house nearby on Clark Pond. Member donations for fish stocking totaling \$527.50 were spent to stock the pond with 250 brown trout in 2011. 250 rainbow trout were stocked in 2010. Fish stocking prices will be researched and presented at the next meeting.
- **Education & Activities**  
The Holiday Wine & Cheese Gathering at the Troxells in December was a big success. The Winter Activity was the Banff Mountain International Film Festival at Lebanon Opera House in early February, attended by a small but interested group who met for dinner beforehand. In future we will eliminate Winter Activity as an MPPA event, to focus on educational activities more closely aligned with our mission as a protective association. In June we will hold a weed cutting workshop to demonstrate proper form, legal aspects, and habitat considerations of weed reduction efforts. We will also ask local turtle expert David Carroll if he would be willing to give a public presentation on turtles.
- **Board of Directors 2012-2013**  
Nancy requested that all officers decide by the April meeting if they are willing to remain on the Board for the next fiscal year. At that time we can discuss putting together a non-Board nominating committee, and perhaps consider asking people who were previously on the Board. Further discussion tabled until 4/10/12 meeting.

- Fundraising  
Nearly all 2012 calendars have sold; there are only three left. The new notecards will be offered for sale this summer at Morgan Hill Bookstore.
- Facebook  
Messer Pond Facebook Page has attracted a few more readers but we are still hoping for at least 25 in order to take advantage of some of the Facebook networking and sharing capabilities. Tell your Facebook friends to “Like” the Facebook Messer Pond Page today!
- Upcoming Events  
Nancy reported on two upcoming events that may be of interest to MPPA officers or members: 1) New Hampshire Water and Watershed Conference on 3/23/12 at Plymouth State, and 2) New Hampshire Lakes Congress on 6/22/12 in Meredith at Church Landing.
- Meeting Schedule  
Remaining meetings this year are 4/10/12, 6/12/12, and 7/28/12 (Annual Meeting).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig  
Secretary