

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
February 27, 2014

Present:

John Doyle, President
Dick Denise, Treasurer
Barbara Troxell, Director
Sue Shock, Director
Donna Doyle

Not Present:

Dave Hennig, Vice President
Rody Denise, Director
Scott Ellison, Director
Alison Hennig, Secretary
Nancy Stetson, Ex Officio

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m. with a quorum (4 of 7) present. Bullet style minutes are presented below.

- Minutes from the November 12, 2013 meeting were previously approved via email and are in the process of being posted to the MPPA website.
- Business Items
 - A. Review Moose Plate Grant paperwork. John reported that the State Conservation Committee waived the insurance requirement and accepted our changes to the schedule of payment. A Certificate in Good Standing and a vendor number has also been obtained. A motion was made and accepted to enter into a contract with the State Conservation Committee and to authorize John Doyle to sign the Grant Agreement on behalf of the association. A second motion was made and accepted to authorize Alison Hennig to certify the association's actions.
 - B. Annual Meeting Date. After some discussion, the motion was made and accepted to have the Annual Meeting on July 19, 2014 at the Baptist Church in New London. There was discussion about the possibility of holding the 2015 Annual Meeting at the Historical Society sometime in early August. A decision to reserve a date will be discussed at the next board meeting in April.
 - C. Setup general email address and voice mailbox. The group felt it would be appropriate if the association's email address (MPPA@messerpond.org) was set up as a distribution list. The distribution list will be comprised of the president, vice-president and secretary. The president would be responsible for acknowledging all correspondences. The board felt that a general voice mailbox was not necessary given the association maintains an email address and PO Box.
 - D. Archiving/Storing Association Documents. Based on a conversation with Terri Bingham, John raised the issue of the archiving of the association's important documents. Much of

the documentation is distributed among present and past officers. John will poll the group prior to the next meeting to gather ideas on what types of documents should be archived and where they could be stored. An option discussed at the meeting was the NL Archive in hard-copy.

E. Boat Ramp Erosion. Nancy reported (via email) that there was no update on the status but would contact the town administrator.

F. New board member recruitment. John will solicit current members and work with Nancy to set up a recruitment committee.

- Membership. No report. It was noted that Alison did an excellent job on writing up the MPPA's submission for the Town's annual report.
- Treasurer's Report. Dick reported that the cash balance is currently \$19,800.46. He added that \$7,225.00 has been donated to date towards the Watershed Management Plan. Dick reported that he paid Gabe Bolin's first invoice, \$1,653.75.

There was a general discussion about the status of the Watershed Implementation Plan funding drive. Dick reported that 42 families donated; about a 2/3's response rate. Of the 42 families, 35 were non board members. The average donation was \$172.02.

The board also discussed how this information should be reported to the general membership. Since less than 25% of the families that donated replied to the question about publishing names, the group decided to just report general statistics related to the funding drive.

- Weed Management. Terri will coordinate the submission for the grant request to NH Lakes. She expects to receive \$1,300. She also reported (via email) that the town will be providing \$3,225 toward this effort as well.

It was also noted that Donna Doyle, who will be coordinating the Weed Management effort in 2014 – will be contacting Terri early in March.

- Water Quality. John still needs to contact the Water Testing Lab at Colby Sawyer to change our contact for water sampling and mail results to the MPPA post office box. As of now, John Harris and John Doyle will be performing the water sampling in 2014.
- Watershed Management.

A) General Mailing to Members of the Watershed. The topics for a general informational mailing to members of the watershed were discussed. John will email Dave and Scott with the ideas. The target for a mailing should coincide with the fertilizing and planting season.

B) Culvert Review. Dave reported (via email) that he and Scott have talked and are in the process of selecting a date for the Spring culvert clean-up.

It was noted that Gabe should be invited to participate in the culvert review this spring. Gabe's participation in the walk-around will allow him to verify the accuracy of his model as it relates to sources of nutrients to the pond.

Sue pointed out that there are other streams feeding the pond aside from the ones the town has recorded. Specifically, she noted one by 171 Forest Acres Road.

C) "Entering Watershed" signs. Nancy reported (via email) that there was no update on the status but would contact the town administrator.

- Fish & Wildlife. Dave reported (via email) that he found some wood shavings from Frank King. He plans to go out and clean out and refresh the wood duck boxes in the next 2 weeks.

- Education & Activities

A) Holiday wine and cheese. Barbara reported it was well attended and very successful; having been skipped the year before. She mentioned that she and Rody will work on getting a commitment from someone before they step down in July.

B) Educational talk. Barbara felt that the kick-off meeting that was held at Dick and Rody's house in the fall should meet the educational requirements suggested by our 501c3 status. She felt that the outreach that is planned in the Watershed Implementation Plan should be considered as the educational activities going forward.

C) Fourth of July. Barbara said that the current thoughts are to hold the event on the 4th, which is on a Friday this year.

- BaseFlow Watershed Plan.

A) Current Status of Watershed Plan. John reported that the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) has been preliminarily accepted - pending some fairly minor changes. And it

meets the requirements to quality our work for a 319h grant (DES will provide a letter). Gabe has contacted LSPA – looking for a weather station in the area that measures and maintains reliable rain fall amounts.

Gabe is about 50% complete with the watershed model development effort.

Gabe is initially going to stay with the 4 identified sampling points. If after the spring runoff is observed, the decision can be revisited and adjusted as it relates to placement and bracketing. Gabe did note that Brown Brook does not lend itself to bracketing – given the large flood area that feeds the entry point at Forest Acres.

Gabe has completed a majority of the pH analysis. Based on the data from other lakes/ponds used to store logs from the Hurricane of 1938; Gabe has not found any direct correlation between the logs in the pond and the low pH levels. He is now reviewing data on ponds with marshes/bogs similar to Messer Pond, and determine if the logs are affecting the ANC levels (ability of the pond to buffer and compensate for acidic inputs).

Gabe was unable to find any used equipment that we could use to supply the test stations. His purchases will be covered by the Moose Plate grant monies.

Gabe believes we should target early April for getting the volunteers together again and demonstrating the sampling equipment and typical procedures around acquiring samples.

B) Grants. John reported that we were awarded a Moose Plate grant of \$4,500 from the State Conservation Committee. Our submission to NH Charities was not accepted. John plans to submit an application to the NE Grassroots organization.

Sue volunteered to contact New London Inn and ask if the MPPA could sign up for a Thursday's Child night.

C) With the tentative approval of the Quality Assurance Project Plan by the state, any volunteer hours done in support of the Watershed Management Plan should be recorded. This time will be recorded on Gabe's project plan. Sue volunteered to develop a way for the volunteers to report their time, collect the data from the volunteers and pass it along to Gabe. All the recorded time will count to the in-kind contribution that the MPPA will be required to contribute to any effort the DES supports via a 319h Grant.

D) Executive summary – John reported that he will write up a summary of the Watershed Management Planning effort. This will be done as a way to introduce and provide background information to any community partners we would like to approach and ask for financial support.

E) Water Testing. Nancy reported (via email) that she had contacted several companies. John will contact Nancy to determine how we should proceed with determining membership interest and how to gather data for Gabe's Watershed model development.

F) Volunteer Status. Barbara and Sue (aka the "Septic Sisters") reviewed the data they had collected on the septic systems (less than half) around Messer Pond. They reviewed a letter that will be sent to solicit other information that is not recorded with the town as well as septic system maintenance schedules.

Terri Bingham is reviewing records in the town archive to provide background information that may be useful to Gabe's development of a watershed model or his analysis of the results. She is planning on interviewing Forest Kimball and Dave Kidder, both have some knowledge of the early history of the area around Messer Pond.

John relayed a conversation he had with Gabe about the possibility of pulling together a history of the build out that has occurred in the watershed in the last 20 years. The information could be used to demonstrate a correlation between the changes in the watershed and the trends in the water samples we have taken since 1995. We've discussed the possibility of asking planning board (and other town boards) to be mindful of the impact of development in the watershed and historical data would be one of the justifications of our request. John will contact Gabe to get a description of what this task requires and pass it along to Sue and Barbara, who will contact the volunteers to determine interest.

G) Membership Update. John mentioned that he would send out another update to the membership in March and asked for topics to be included. Some of the suggestions were: Other volunteer needs, water testing, the septic letter, status of plan, status of fund raising, grants status.

- Other Business

A) Kearsarge Valley Time Bank. John reported on an article in the InterTown Record. The concept of a time bank is a way of exchanging services without monetary compensation. The effort is just starting and John will contact the group to see if there is an opportunity to augment some of the needs of the MPPA.

B) Reduced sand/salt use. John mentioned that it did not seem that the amount of sand/salt on the roads had dropped on the Bog end of Forest Acres Road. Barbara and Sue felt it was lower on their portion of Forest Acres. Dick thought the use on White Pines was about the same as last year.

C) NEC-CALMS conference. John reported that he received information on this year's conference, which will be held on 6/13/14 – 6/14/14. The focus of the conference is "what homeowners can do for their lakes" – covering topics like septic system

maintenance, landscaping and storm water management. John signed up for the workshop information and will pass it along when it is available.

- D) "Gimme Green" short film. John reported on a movie Donna and he attended in Concord. The event was sponsored by Upper Merrimack River Committee. The movie was followed by a panel discussion focused on landscaping alternatives and environmentally friendly lawn maintenance techniques. Barbara suggested contacting the Lake Sunapee and Pleasant Lake Protective Associations to determine interest in sponsoring a joint screening and panel discussion in this area. Barbara also asked for a copy of the material to pass along to the garden club.
 - E) Country Road Trash Pickup Coordinator. Nancy reported (via email) that she will send out a request for a volunteer. The email was previously reviewed by the board – but it was decided to hold off distribution until early spring.
 - F) NH Water & Watershed Conference. Nancy (via email) reported that the conference this year will be held on March 21st at Plymouth State College. Information is available on that web site.
- Board Meeting Schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for 4/8/14.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna and John Doyle