

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
APRIL 8, 2014

Present:

John Doyle, President  
Dave Hennig, Vice President  
Dick Denise, Treasurer  
Rody Denise, Director  
Scott Ellison, Director  
Sue Shock, Director  
Alison Hennig, Secretary  
Nancy Stetson, Ex Officio

Absent:

Barbara Troxell, Director

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

- Minutes from the February 18, 2014 meeting were approved as circulated.
- Business Items
  - A. Annual Meeting date. July 19<sup>th</sup> was proposed for this year's Annual Meeting, to be held at the Baptist Church meeting hall. Nancy will forward information to John regarding the task list required to pull together the meeting. Per bylaws, a public notice must be published 15 days prior to the meeting date. We are considering returning to the New London Historical Society for the 2015 meeting. Sue reports that 8/9/15 is currently available and requires a small fee plus liability insurance; she will research what is required to secure a contract.
  - B. MPPA document storage/archiving. Discussion was held about permanent storage for official MPPA documents, including what should be stored and where. It was decided to use a combination of on-line storage and paper copies. Hard copies will include minutes, grants, tax filings, state filings, backup of QuickBooks, and studies/reports. On-line storage will include membership, distribution lists, letterhead, 501c(3) articles and bylaws. Nancy will investigate on-line storage; apparently Google Docs waives their fee for nonprofits. We need to consider who will have control of on-line documents, and what will be available to members and/or the public.
  - C. Erosion at boat launch. Nancy updated the group about the erosion issue at the boat launch. She brought the issue to the attention of Richard Lee from Public Works, who already had plans to repair the culvert this year and will now consider adding in work on the eroding boat launch as well.

- Membership/Recruitment.

A. Board positions. Rody and Barbara are ending their terms on the board in July, and Nancy will conclude her service as well. Other remaining board members agree to continue to serve in their current positions, with the following exceptions: Dave wishes to become Wildlife Director, and Alison will continue as secretary as long as another person can handle membership/recruitment. John said he will begin making calls to potential replacements for board positions.

B. Moose plate grant. Now that we are the recipient of the Moose Plate Grant, all letters, correspondence and the website should carry the grant logo. We will be receiving the formal paperwork soon.

- Education & Activities.

A. "Gimme Green". For our 2014 educational program, it was decided to co-sponsor with other local lake associates an educational video called "Gimme Green" to educate on water usage and pollution issues, and hopefully provide people some alternatives to lawn fertilizing. The program will include a panel discussion with representatives from real estate and landscaping companies and moderated by a Town representative to talk about regulations. Tentative date is June 11<sup>th</sup>.

B. July 4<sup>th</sup>. The July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday falls on a Friday this year. It was voted to move the July 4<sup>th</sup> barbecue and boat parade to Saturday to give people more time to prepare a boat entry, and use Sunday as a rain date.

- Finances.

A. Balance sheet/Income statement. Dick reported the bank cash balance is currently \$19,697, which includes a separate column for watershed management of \$8,175. Two invoices for the watershed management plan have been paid to date. It was voted and approved to make donations totaling \$750 to NH Lakes, Loon Preservation, LSPA and Ausbon Sargent. State and federal tax filings will be prepared as last year.

B. Update on watershed gifting. Since the last meeting, three additional donations came in for the watershed plan. There was discussion about whether or not to do a follow-up mailing to waterfront families who did not respond to the appeal. It was ultimately decided

that Dick will send a list of non-responders to John, who will follow up individually to make sure these people are not against the project, and provide an opportunity to share more about the project and answer questions that people may have.

- Lake Hosting and Weed Watching.

A) Lake hosting. We received a report from Terri that the application to NH Lakes was made in March, and we should hear by April 11. We applied for and expect to receive \$1,300 for 2014 lake hosting, in addition to \$3,225 from the Town of New London.

B) Weed watching. Terri has transferred records and materials to the new Weed Watch Chair, Donna Doyle. The entire shoreline is covered for weed watching, and Terri will continue to assist in any way she can.

- Water Quality. We have a new lab address for 2014 water testing and our contact is Bonnie Lewis.

- Watershed Management.

A) General mailing to members of watershed. Scott volunteered to pen the letter targeted to members of the watershed to be mailed out this spring addressing use of fertilizers and will include a watershed map.

B) Spring cleanup. The spring culvert cleanup will take place on Saturday, May 10. An email will go out to members to recruit volunteers, and Curt and JP will be contacted to reserve their equipment.

C) Watershed signs. The signs for "Entering the Messer Pond watershed" were approved by Richard Lee. Nancy will now revisit the quotes, and get the signs ordered and paid.

D) County Road trash pickup. Jeff Troxell will be coordinating the County Road trash pickup initiative, and has already sent out a sign-up email for volunteers.

- Fish & Wildlife.

A) Wood duck boxes. Dave reports that he cleaned the boxes and put in fresh chips the first week of March and they are ready for the season. He found evidence of eggs that had never hatched in one of the boxes, and in another there was evidence of a successful hatch. Dave will continue to monitor the duck boxes this season.

B) Animal activity. Dave reported that it is too soon to tell if beavers have come to the pond, but he will continue to watch for signs of activity. Geese have already been sighted. Nancy will apply for the egg depredation permit in case it is needed this season. Nancy has the duck decoys, in case anyone wishes to deploy them.

- BaseFlow Watershed Plan.

A) Current Status of Watershed Plan. John reported that the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) was filed and accepted at DES. Gabe Bolin from BaseFlow, our engineering firm, is happy with the data that volunteers have been able to pull from the database. He has purchased equipment and will be here next week to install. He will meet with volunteers on May 8 or 9 to instruct on how to measure the depth of water and flows into the pond.

B) Volunteer status. Sue and Barbara have been keeping track of volunteer hours spent on Watershed Management activities. They have contacted volunteers to tally their volunteer hours and will get this information to Gabe. In addition, they requested information on the age of the septic systems around Messer Pond, and most people responded right away. Sue will follow up with those who did not respond. She will also coordinate the next volunteer daytime meeting for early May.

C) New England Grassroots grant. John reported that the New England Grassroots Environment Fund offers small grants to foster environmental initiatives in New England and has two potential grants that we can apply for to help fund the Watershed Plan.

D) Thursday's Child. Sue reported that this fundraising program runs October through May and is full this year and next; MPPA is on the list for 2016.

E) Water testing. Gabe is requesting information on the nitrogen and phosphorous levels collected over time for Messer Pond. He also wants to gather information on which households have had their water tested. An email will go to MPPA members similar to the request for information on wells to inquire on past water testing. Nancy is getting quotes from testing companies to see if we can set up a discounted rate for MPPA members who wish to get their water tested.

F) Membership update. The next general update to membership will be May/June and will address the current project status of the Watershed Management Plan.

- Other Business

A) Kearsarge Valley Time Bank. The Kearsarge Valley Time Bank is a bartering system for volunteer work, and it was suggested as a possible source for help with lake hosting.

B) Septic pump out. The septic discount program will be again offered to members.

C) Storm water management projects. Dick reports that Boy Scout Pack 71 is willing to do more storm water projects without NH Lakes grant money, if the property owners pay for the materials.

- Board Meeting Schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for 6/10/14.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig  
MPPA Secretary