

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
APRIL 16, 2013

Present for the meeting:

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

Absent:

Barbara Troxell, Director

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

- Minutes from the February 12, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as circulated.

- Fish & Wildlife

A) Beaver. Beaver activity has already been reported this season at the existing lodge near the conservation inlet. Since the last meeting Dave found a local licensed wildlife relocation expert, Trapper Brandon based in Danbury, who does live trapping and relocation of beaver. He holds a Level 2 NH wildlife license, and his fee is half the cost of Critter Control, at \$300 per animal plus mileage. After discussion it was voted and approved, with Marie Rossachacj abstaining, to spend up to \$400 for the relocation of one beaver. If additional beaver are found, the Board will reconvene for further discussion regarding additional funds.

B) Geese. A pair of Canada geese has been sighted on the pond and they appear to be scoping out an area for nesting. In keeping with our prior discussion, our intent is to do egg oiling ourselves to prevent the goslings from hatching, with 3 people being assertive and making noise to keep the geese away while 1 person does the egg oiling. Dave and Nancy are working on the egg depredation application which will go before the Conservation Commission. Once approved, we will gather a group to locate the nest and perform the oiling. A motion was made and approved, with Marie Rossachacj abstaining, to perform the egg oiling as outlined.

- Watershed Management

A) Signage. The Board discussed putting up two sets of signs on County Road as you approach Messer Pond, one that indicates "Entering the Messer Pond Watershed", and the other "MPPA Adopts County Road for Trash Cleanup". It has also been requested by

residents on Forest Acres to have signage educating dog walkers that they are in the Messer Pond Watershed and not scooping their dog waste is hazardous and detrimental to the pond. It was moved and unanimously approved to spend up to \$250 for the County Road signs, and \$250 for the Forest Acres signs. MPPA will purchase the signs and the Town will install them. Outside of this meeting, Nancy and Terri will investigate size and determine exact wording for these signs.

- Business Items.

A) Guidestar. Nancy reported that MPPA is now in the on-line GuideStar nonprofit database.

B) 2013 Membership letter. Nancy reported that she has started the annual membership letter, and her goal is to send it to the membership in early May.

C) Nominating Committee. The Cavallaros and Hunts volunteered for the Nominating Committee last year. Nancy will contact them to see if they wish to continue again this year.

D) Lake Conservation Corps Project. On Friday, April 26th, Nancy and Dick will tour properties with Robie Parsons from NH Lakes to select properties for participation in the annual storm water management projects.

E) Outreach. Dave requested adding an agenda item for the June meeting. He would like the Board to begin thinking about expanding some of the board member roles or create new committees to encompass outreach, membership recruitment, and additional watershed education.

- Membership. Alison reported the current membership remains at 131 members.

- Finances.

A) Treasurer's Report. Dick reported the bank balance as of April 15 is \$10,062.56, after payment of some recent bills.

B) 2012 Tax Forms due May 15. The Federal Form 990-N has been filed, and the State Form NHCT-2A is due on May 15.

- Weed Management

A) Lake Hosting. Terri reports that lake hosts have been hired and hosting will start Memorial Day weekend. This year paid hosts will be used only on the weekend. We are expecting \$1,300 in grant money from NH Lakes to cover the paid hosts.

B) Weed Watching. Terri reports that weed watching season begins in May and runs through October. While the entire lake is currently covered, she would still like to see a few more volunteers.

C) Milfoil Crisis Prize Meeting. Due to the lack of response from the Milfoil Crisis company Terri has had trouble putting together a meeting to discuss mapping the weeds on Messer Pond. Since Messer Pond does not have invasive species, we are interested in mapping our native weeds for a baseline with GPS coordinates. However, the company that issued the prize that Terri won does not seem as keen to do this. Terri suggested adding an extension to the Lakes Congress meeting to cover this topic if people are interested in this option.

D) Wood duck boxes. With the imminent departure of Frank King who will be moving out of the area, someone will need to take over maintenance and monitoring of the wood duck boxes and decoys. The newest wood duck box has been placed near the Stetson and Bingham properties.

- Water Quality.

Over the past few meetings John has shared the VLAP sampling reports, and the Board had expressed concern that the water quality of Messer Pond appears to be deteriorating. Some of the recent readings have been the worst we have seen on record. Because of these concerns, John organized a meeting on March 1st at DES in Concord, attended by Sara Steiner and David Neils of DES, and by John, Dave, and Nancy from MPPA, to discuss ideas for assessing and improving water quality of Messer Pond. Separate from these minutes, John had emailed minutes of this meeting to the Board; highlights will be repeated here.

The first step is to identify sources of potential contamination. Just prior to the DES meeting Dave did a survey of water runoff from I-89 and determined there is most likely some runoff into the pond. Sara plans to do an analysis of brooks potentially contaminating the pond. A suggestion was made to get an inventory of culverts, with a plan to work with the Town regarding a maintenance schedule. DES said they can work with us on a more comprehensive problem statement/next steps strategy for moving forward with a watershed plan. Unfortunately, due to state budget cuts, 319 grants are available only for water body remediation, whereas in the past funds were also available for watershed plans which can run from \$20,000 to \$70,000 performed by an engineering firm. This is a catch

22 situation for us because there are no funds for plans, but a plan is required to qualify for a 319 grant.

If we go forward with an engineered watershed plan, we would have to look at multiple sources for funding since MPPA does not have sufficient capital for this type of expenditure. Some that were mentioned were the NH Charitable Fund, Moose Plate grant, ask banks for matching grants, LSPA, and volunteer/education partnerships with Colby-Sawyer College and UNH. The plan requires quantitative improvement projects that are specific and measurable, and monitored over many years. Thus, this project requires a large monetary commitment over a long period of time.

There was further discussion about how to address and explain the water quality problem to the membership. It was agreed that we need to ask Sara for help on how to interpret the VLAP report, to better understand how the numbers changed, get more of an explanation on causes, and do some comparisons with other lakes similar to Messer Pond. These activities will be done in committee fashion outside of the regular board meetings, in preparation for presentation/discussion at the Annual Meeting.

- Watershed Management

A) Watershed Database Project. Dave reported that the Messer Pond watershed is mapped but not yet fully updated on the Town Assessor's map. We have a copy of the mailing list database of everyone in the watershed from the Assessor. Dave hopes we can do a broad communication to all families within the watershed but we need some discussion on what and when to send. It could be a one page letter, or something more comprehensive if the board prefers, with a focus on educating how Messer Pond's water quality is affected by people living within its watershed. Nancy asked Dave to put together some bullet points that he would like to see included in a mailing, including things like the watershed map, information about septic systems and fertilizers. John agreed that more frequent communication with people within the watershed is a good idea, and we can ask people to provide their emails if they want ongoing email communications. In addition, Dave would like to target critical properties and get more personal with people close to the pond.

B) Spring Clean-Up. The date for Spring Clean-Up is April 20th, with a rain date of April 27th.

- Education & Activities

A) July 4th. Rody reported that once Barbara is home from her extended trip, they will be kicking into gear to get ready for MPPA's first combined July 4th BBQ and Regatta. They will be soliciting volunteers to help with this event.

B) Lakes Congress. This year's Lakes Congress will be held on June 21st at Colby-Sawyer College. Dick Denise will be a speaker and co-host of a field trip around Messer Pond!

- Other

A) Regional Roundtable. The Regional Roundtable will be held on Tuesday, April 30th, and the public is welcome to attend.

B) The Lead Fishing Tackle Bill faces a House hearing on April 25th. People are encouraged to support this bill by attending the hearing, and/or emailing your legislators.

C) On June 21 a group from Bike and Build will be coming to New London. This is an organization that puts together bike trips that benefit affordable housing. While in the area they will be giving a presentation.

- Board Meeting Schedule. Remaining meetings for the season: 6/11/13, and 7/20/13 (Annual Meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary