

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 11, 2013

Present for the meeting:

Nancy Stetson, President
Terri Bingham, Vice President
Dick Denise, Treasurer
Barbara Troxell, Director
Dave Hennig, Director
John Doyle, Director
Alison Hennig, Secretary

Absent:

Rody Denise, Director

Guests:

Scott Ellison
Sue Shock

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

- Minutes from the April 16, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as circulated, with correction of a spelling error, and clarification that participants in the Bike & Build program are not looking for host homes but are staying at a local church.

- Business Items

A) Marie Rossachacj Resignation. Nancy reported that Marie resigned as Wildlife Director on 4/22/13 over a difference in philosophy about how to manage the geese and beaver. The Board accepted the resignation.

B) Next Board. Nancy has been diligently contacting MPPA members to recruit for new board members, in light of both longstanding President and Vice President positions becoming vacant in July. John Doyle has agreed to assume office of President, and Dave Vice President, pending membership vote at Annual Meeting. Outgoing VP Terri Bingham was thanked for her dedicated years of service on the Board. Nancy will continue for the next year in ex officio capacity. The following members agreed to stay on in their current roles for the upcoming one-year term: Alison, Dick, Barbara, and Rody. Scott Ellison and Sue Shock are in attendance this evening to observe proceedings to consider possible board membership.

C) Watershed Signs. At the last meeting it was voted to approve two signs for County Road announcing entry into the Messer Pond watershed, and two signs on Forest Acres Road to advise people to curb their dogs. Terri has composed a letter to the Town selectmen requesting that these signs be approved and installed by Public Works. This letter included the possibility of additional signage on Fieldstone Lane in the future if dog signs are voted and approved by this board in that location. Nancy presented a prototype of the County Road watershed sign, which everyone agreed was beautiful. There was brief discussion about how popular an idea the dog signs are and whether they change the character of the area. It was agreed that as part of the watershed discussion at the Annual Meeting, the topic of dog signs will be brought to the membership for discussion and put on the ballot for a vote.

D) 2013 Membership Letter. Nancy reported that she has composed the annual membership letter in both email and pdf formats and it will be distributed shortly. It was suggested and agreed that a notation be added to the membership form about tax deductibility of membership fees and donations to MPPA.

E) Lake Conservation Corps Project. On 6/22/13 the local Boy Scout troop will perform the labor for three identified storm water management projects at the Shucart, Webster and Aseltine properties on Messer Pond, under the direction of the Scout leader and NH Lakes Association. The contracts are not yet fully complete, but projects will be similar to those done in the past, along the lines of rain gardens, dripline trenches, infiltration steps, and runoff diverters.

F) Messer Pond Watershed Management Plan Development. John briefly reviewed water quality issues previously discussed by the board and more completely summarized in the last meeting minutes dated 4/16/13. Due to a decline of several water quality measures of Messer Pond over the last few years, the Board wishes to pursue a formal watershed management plan in order to satisfy the requirements to apply for a State 319 remediation grant. John has already been in touch with two engineers for project bids: Gabe Bolin of BaseFlow LLC, and Charlie Hirschberg of CLD Consulting Engineers.

The Board agreed that a subcommittee will be required to manage the watershed management plan, establish a budget and explore forms of fundraising. John will set up appropriate meetings, and get competing bids and project specifications from the selected engineers. We also need more information about the French Pond study conducted by Gabe to see how he saved money by incorporating volunteer hours into the project through New England College. In preparation for the MPPA Annual Meeting, John will contact DES to gather facts about the history and timetable of the change in water metrics. Other next steps include contacting other ponds, including LSPA, to see what they have done for water quality improvement projects and to see if other volunteer resources are available. John will also write a draft letter to MPPA membership explaining the process and rationale for the watershed management plan.

G) Annual Meeting 7/20/13. Nancy went over the proposed agenda for next month's Annual Meeting, and after discussion some revisions were made and the agenda was approved. We still need ballot counters for the meeting, as well as volunteers for set-up and clean-up, registration table and money collection.

- Membership. Alison reported that since the Membership Letter has just gone out for the opening of the new lake season, there are currently 13 members. The majority of current members renew their membership at the Annual Meeting. Alison requested that the Board consider a new board position to handle Membership, with a specific focus on new member recruitment, and in lieu of membership people could donate to MPPA and be identified as a "Friend of Messer Pond". Nancy suggested that this idea be discussed with the new Board, but generally everyone thinks it is a good idea. Director titles are fluid and flexible, and a dedicated membership person could be incorporated into one of the directorships.
- Treasurer's Report. Dick reported that the 2012 State Tax Form NHCT-2A was filed in a timely manner by May 15. The P&L report was emailed to the board prior to the meeting, and there were no issues raised. Current bank balance is \$10,290 and will go up by approximately \$2,000 after membership renewals.
- Weed Management

A) Lake hosting. Terri reported that the new lake hosting season kicked off on Memorial Day weekend with a combination of volunteer and paid lake hosts. As in the past, we secured grant money from both NH Lakes Association and Town of New London to pay for the weekend paid lake hosts. At the conclusion of her term as VP, Terri will continue to manage the lake hosting program.

B) Weed watching. Likewise, the weed watching program is now in full swing with both new and returning volunteers for monthly weed inspections. Terri has reworked some of the territories for full shoreline coverage. Beginning with the new Board, Terri will no longer manage the weed watching program and we will need to find someone to take over this responsibility.

C) Milfoil Crisis Prize. Terri reported that the people from the milfoil mapping company will explain their mapping techniques for native weeds in a dedicated session at the conclusion of the Lakes Congress at Colby Sawyer from 3:00 to 5:00 on June 21. Members were encouraged to attend.

- Water Quality

A) VLAP Workshop 6/1. John reported that the VLAP Workshop on June 1st was excellent. Dustin Johnson from Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance was a great speaker who presented many best practices for storm water management as a model for other lakes, with ideas we can adopt for our membership. Barbara will keep this in mind for a possible future MPPA educational program. Amy Smagula encouraged lake associations to draw sediment samples from mussel beds to check for Asian Clams, a new invasive aquatic animal that is rapidly spreading.

B) VLAP Biologist Visit 6/19. Sara Steiner will be making a visit to Messer Pond on June 19th. It was mentioned that our deep water marker is missing and must be reset. Bruce Stetson and John Harris will take care of this.

- Watershed

A) Watershed GIS Mapping. Dave reported that he worked with the New London Assessor's office to access the database for identification of all addresses in the Messer Pond watershed, an effort previously started by Dick Denise. We now have a complete list of all 420 New London addresses in the watershed, both in Excel and pdf format. MPPA is the first lake association in this area to have created an overlay of watershed properties on the Town map.

B) Watershed Letter. Dave provided Nancy with content suggestions for the planned watershed mailing. It will be a friendly communication aimed at educating all families within the MPPA watershed about human impact on water quality, and introductory information about MPPA.

C) Spring Clean-up 4/20. This year's Spring clean-up was a success with many volunteer participants working around the pond cleaning out culverts, as well as trash collection on County Road from Burpee Hill to Tracy Road.

- Education & Activities.

A) July 4th Barbecue & Regatta. Barbara shared a comprehensive task list for the July 4th festivities, including volunteer roles and items to bring or purchase for the event. An email announcing the event will be going out to the membership.

- Fish & Wildlife

A) Beaver management. Dave summarized the current beaver problem and our attempt to handle it. A new beaver lodge appeared this winter at the County Road inlet. Beavers can take as many as 200 trees when they build a new lodge. MPPA hired Trapper Brandon from Danbury, NH to do live trapping and relocating the beaver to the Danbury-Bristol area. Brandon caught one beaver and thought there might be a second. He has a deadline of the end of June for relocating beaver with a total of \$350 MPPA funds spent. While we don't mind a random beaver, our goal is not to have a colony of beaver due to the amount of tree destruction.

B) Canada geese management. Dave also summarized the issue with geese. Last year we had about 10 Canada geese with many complaints from residents around the pond about waste and nuisance. This year we wanted to be proactive by oiling the eggs in the nest to prevent them from hatching. A group went out to locate the nest but could not find it. It would appear the geese did not settle on Messer Pond but may have gone to Clark Pond or on other State property. In summary, although they have been sighted around the pond, Canada geese are not a problem this year. In addition, Dave reported that two wood duck chicks used the wood duck box at the County inlet. With the imminent departure of Frank King, the duck boxes and duck decoys will need to be managed and cleaned by someone else.

C) Lead Fishing Tackle Bill SB89. Nancy reported that Bill SB89 to eliminate lead tackle from NH waterbodies recently passed in the legislature and now just needs the signature of the governor.

- Events

A) NH Lakes Congress. As previously noted, this year's NH Lakes Congress will be held on 6/21/13 at Colby-Sawyer College. Several MPPA board members will be in attendance.

B) Bike & Build. Participants in the Bike & Build effort in support of affordable housing will be making a stop in New London on 6/21.

C) NH Lakes "Hands Across the Water". If people are interested, there is a boat gathering on Sept. 7 at Weirs Beach, Laconia. "Hands Across the Water" will attempt to see how many boats can be gathered with people holding hands.

- Board Meeting Schedule. Remaining meetings for the calendar year: 7/20/13 (Annual Meeting), 9/10/13, 11/12/13.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary