

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
JUNE 12, 2014

Present:

John Doyle, President
Dave Hennig, Vice President
Sue Shock, Director
Barbara Troxell, Director
Scott Ellison, Director
Alison Hennig, Secretary
Nancy Stetson, Ex Officio

Absent:

Dick Denise, Director
Rody Denise, Treasurer

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

- Minutes from the April 8, 2014 meeting were approved as circulated.
- Annual Meeting. A brief discussion was held about details for this year's Annual Meeting on 7/19/14. Per bylaws, a public notice must be published 15 days prior to the meeting containing the ballot of candidates for voting. We will follow the same format as prior Annual Meetings, and will invite Gabe Bolin of Baseflow to give a presentation.
- Business Items
 - A. Reserve Historical Society. The membership will be queried at the Annual Meeting to see about interest in returning the 2015 Annual Meeting to the Historical Society. Rental fees will be \$200 more than the Baptist Church.
 - B. Boat Launch. Richard Lee from Public Works is getting a quote for rebuilding the Bog Road boat launch similar to Pleasant Lake's. Selectmen must approve the work, and landowner Betsy Rogoff must grant a rite of way before the Town will pay for and proceed with this project. MPPA will offer to pay any costs incurred by Betsy Rogoff.
 - C. Town Overlay. John and Dave are meeting with Lucy St. John in 2 weeks to request a correction to the watershed overlay on the Town map which does not currently show Brown Brook and Nutter Brook. These are major tributaries to Messer Pond that should be included in protected wetlands and streams. It is hoped that this issue can be brought to the Town Planning Board for a public vote.
 - D. Gift for Fred Kaufman. The board agreed to bestow a gift to founding member Fred Kaufman for his many years of service as he departs. The gift will be a framed picture of Messer Pond and will be presented at the Regatta.

E. Logs at Right of Way. There are a number of logs sitting adjacent to the right of way. Richard Lee will be picking them up.

- Membership/Recruitment. The search continues for new Board members. Besides the general letter to the membership, John has sent individual letters to likely candidates and has not found any interested takers to fill vacancies that will open in July.
- Finances. There were no questions regarding the balance sheet provided by Dick and reviewed by the Board prior to the meeting. Dick had a question about renewing membership to NH Nonprofits; the Board decided that due to fees associated with membership, we will not renew.
- Weed Management. Donna Doyle sent out a kickoff email to all the weed watchers from last year. Volunteers will continue their assignments with a few minor adjustments to designated areas of shoreline. A recent email to members included an update on the VLAP workshop attended by Donna and John in May which included links to the NH DES so people could access photos and information on the plants--both invasive and natural. She will also be getting more material from NH DES on the Asian Clam, which is being tagged as an invasive animal.
- Lake Hosting. Paid lake hosting began on Memorial Day weekend. Paid hosts are there Fridays from 3-6pm, and on weekends from 8am-8pm. Volunteer hosting will take place during the week in the evenings and sporadically during the day. More volunteers would be appreciated.
- Water Quality.

A) Water Sampling. The first water sampling of the season was done this month and still awaiting results.

B) VLAP Events. There are several upcoming VLAP activities and events.

- MPPA will participate in a fish study to help DES set guidelines on mercury consumption. It involves submitting 5 fish from our pond to DES for evaluation. We will poll the membership for someone to coordinate this effort.
- MPPA will participate in a trophic study involving 3 visits by VLAP staff over 3 years to measure depths and characteristics of our pond.
- There will be a lecture entitled "Loons and the Health of Lakes" held on July 22nd at the Loon Center in Moultonborough as part of the Citizen Science Lecture Series sponsored by NH DES.
- MPPA will participate in a cyanobacteria study undertaken by New England EPA, which involves collecting samples as part of a comprehensive survey of lake conditions.

- Watershed Management.
 - A) General mailing to members of watershed. Scott will be drafting the general mailing to members of the Messer Pond watershed on a variety of environmental topics.
 - B) Watershed Signs. The MPPA watershed signs were installed last week on County Road and look great.
- Fish & Wildlife. Dave reported that Canada geese were seen in the area early in the season but are not nesting on Messer Pond this year. Dave also noticed some early evidence of beaver activity far up the stream behind Scott Ellison's house and will be keeping an eye on this.
- Education & Activities.
 - A) "Gimme Green". John reported that 25-30 people have signed up for the "Gimme Green" presentation on June 16th, cohosted by several area lake associations. There will be light refreshments and educational handouts.
 - B) July 4th. It was decided to hold this year's Bar-B-Q on Saturday, July 5th, to give people an extra day to get a boat ready for the Boat Parade. This year's theme is Cartoon Characters. Rody Denise is point person for this event. In case of rain, the event will not be rescheduled, but instead the food will be used at the Annual Meeting.
- BaseFlow Watershed Plan.
 - A) Current Status of Watershed Plan. John reported that NH DES has officially approved our Site Specific Project Plan and agrees with our approach to identify sources of nutrient loading into Messer Pond. Gabe continues to develop the computer model of the watershed, incorporating data gathered from surveying the specific topography of Messer Pond, information from DES, and the water sampling. He installed 4 sampling devices around the pond to measure flows in and out of the pond. There will be a dry sampling event on the 19th performed by the volunteers, meeting at Troxells, and Dave is the point person.
 - B) Grants. Grant applications to NE Grassroots and NH Charities were not approved due to number of applications and limited funds. However, the 2015 319 grant funding process has opened up with funds for planning projects. Sara Steiner from DES has offered to write a letter of support for our application, and John will also ask Kim from the Town Manager's office for another letter of support. If approved, the 319 grant would only cover expenses incurred after the grant is awarded (~ 1/1/2015).

C) Water testing. Nancy contacted several labs to inquire about discount water testing and found one called Nelson Analytical Labs in Manchester who will conduct homeowner water testing at a 10-20% discount. She will provide a cost list for available services.

D) Volunteer Status. Volunteers continue to contribute their time to several tasks related to the Watershed Plan, with volunteer roles coordinated by Sue and Barbara. They gave an update on upcoming volunteer activities, including another volunteer get-together, future sampling, and watershed survey. Sue reported a good response to the septic survey, with four homes reportedly having no info on their systems.

E) Outline of Letter to Membership. The next general letter to MPPA membership is planned to include an update on the Watershed Plan project, measurements, sampling, the Town overlay map, thanks for participating in the septic program, outreach, "Gimme Green", and grants. Nancy will do a separate informational email about membership renewal, activities, and the Annual Meeting.

- Other Business

A) Amazon Smile. John registered MPPA as a charitable organization on Amazon Smile, which gives .5% of purchases to MPPA when our organization is selected at point of sale.

B) Lakes Congress. This year's Lakes Congress is on June 21st. Nancy and Terri are attending. Barbara has submitted Terri's name as a nominee for the Morgan Award for outstanding stewardship.

- Board Meeting Schedule.

A) Next Meeting. The next meeting is the Annual Meeting on 7/19/14.

B) Proposed schedule for next year: 9/9/14, 11/11/14, 2/10/15, 4/14/15, 6/9/15, and 8/8/15 (Annual Meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary