

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
JUNE 18, 2012

Present for the meeting:

Nancy Stetson, President  
Terri Bingham, Vice President  
J.P. Paquette, Treasurer  
John Doyle, Director  
Frank King, Director  
Dick Denise, Director  
Rody Denise, Director  
Alison Hennig, Secretary

Absent:

Barbara Troxell, Director

The meeting began at 7:10 p.m. with a quorum present. Bullet style minutes are presented below.

- Minutes from the April 10, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.
- Business Items – Annual Meeting 7/28/12  
Rody plans to have Barbara bring sign-up sheets to the July 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ for the Annual Meeting and Regatta so people can sign up for what dishes to bring, and to volunteer for set-up, registration, decorations, etc. There will also be volunteer sign-up sheets on the tables at the Annual Meeting. Rody and Barbara would like to find 2 co-chairs for the Annual Meeting and 2 - 4 couples for set-up and clean-up. For the Annual Meeting there will be no appetizers, just salads, main dishes, desserts and beverages. An area will be available for children to play or lounge during the meeting, with adult supervision. Registration will start at 3:30 and the meeting will start at 4:00 and end no later than 5:30 pm, followed by the Potluck Picnic. JP and Dick will man the registration table. The format for the business meeting was discussed. Terri will incorporate the movie “NH Lakes Under Attack” into her report.
- Membership  
The new PayPal button on the MPPA webpage is working and memberships are starting to come in via PayPal. Nancy distributed a proposed membership renewal letter which she would like everyone to look over by tomorrow with their feedback, if any. This will go out to the membership at large within the next few days. There are several new families around the Pond who have signed up for membership: Chijner, Quillen, Steinmetz; we hope to meet them all at the July 4<sup>th</sup> BBQ. Due to time constraints, no membership newsletter has been prepared, but Nancy will continue membership communication via emails.
- Finances  
JP reports our balance is currently \$9,150.27. He and Dick had a final meeting with New London Book Keeping. A final bill for services is outstanding. Dick purchased the QuickBooks software and registered it to MPPA, and is designating the entire expense (\$199) as a charitable donation to MPPA. Thank you, Dick! JP requested a letter of indemnification when he transfers the books to Dick after the Annual Meeting. Nancy and Alison will get together to provide the indemnification letter and charitable contribution acknowledgments. The first tax filings for 2012 (May 15) were handled together by Nancy and JP; this is the Treasurer’s responsibility.

- Weed Management

Terri reports that there has been a fairly good response to the email request to members for volunteering for lake host and weed watching duties; most (but not all) response was from current and past Board members. She is in the process of providing training to new volunteers and retraining for past volunteers. Lake Hosting started Memorial Day weekend. Paid lake hosts will be on the job on Saturdays and Sundays, 8 am-8 pm, and on some Fridays in July, and will continue through Labor Day, or beyond if the weather is nice and we still have money. We get more Town grant money as our boat inspections increase. Volunteers will be slotted for Mondays through Thursdays, mostly during whatever hours people can manage. Weed Watch time is June through September, and this season has already started. All current weed watchers have volunteered to continue; no one new has signed up. Report sheets went out to all weed watchers.

Terri reported on a growing problem with Japanese Knotweed which tends to grow near shorelines. It's been known to be a problem in Maine, and now it is showing up in and around town. It is very invasive and rapidly growing. The NH Cooperative Extension has information on how to treat it, and there is also information about this problem on the Town website. Terri will try to get informational brochures available for the Annual Meeting.

There is a new and improved mailbox for boat sign-in at the boat launch. There is also a new reflector to help assist boaters backing in their trailers.

- Water Quality

John and Nancy attended the Annual VLAP workshop on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, where MPPA was the recipient of the Secchi Disk Award. The disk was on hand at the meeting for the board to admire. This is quite an honor and shows that we are setting a good example to other lake associations for our dedication to quality educational and volunteer programs.

Regional VLAP reports are now available, and individual lake reports will be coming soon. Interestingly, Messer pond's water clarity is the lowest it has been since 2006, while phosphorous is consistent with what we've had, and chlorophyll is the highest we've ever seen, in fact highest in the Dartmouth Lake Sunapee region. At this point we are not sure if something is causing these changes or whether they are normal aberrations. John will be monitoring the water quality on an ongoing basis. He recommended looking at the VLAP website, and Nancy urged board members read this report.

This year's water sampling dates are June 18<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup>, and September 5<sup>th</sup>. John Harris and John Doyle will be doing the sampling and the samples will be analyzed by Bonnie Lewis from the LSPA Water Lab at Colby Sawyer. Bathymetric measurements will be conducted on June 22<sup>nd</sup> with a remapping across the entire pond. The Nutter Brook inlet is changing from erosion and a delta has been forming in this location. John Doyle mentioned that the Town may have received stormwater grants for projects addressing things like this delta, so Nancy offered to contact Kim Halquist, Town Administrator, to inquire about getting some grant funding to undertake some improvement projects.

- Watershed Management

Dick reported that the Messer Pond Spring Clean-Up went well on May 5<sup>th</sup>. About 20 culverts were cleaned and a lot of trash removed from the roadside. Thanks to all volunteers who helped.

On June 9<sup>th</sup> in association with the Lake Conservation Corps and local Boy Scout Troop 71 (4 adults, 8-9 kids), the four watershed improvement projects identified and discussed previously were all worked on successfully.

Five families signed up so far for this year's Discount Septic Pumpout Program. Nancy will be sending a letter to Little Lake Sunapee's association to invite them to participate in this offer from Byron's Septic for a discounted rate. This is our fourth year conducting this program and it is not only well received but easy to manage.

JP passed out a sample sign asking people to curb their dogs, as this is becoming more of a nuisance on Forest Acres Road where people like to walk their dogs; it contributes to unwanted waste in the pond, not to mention it is against the law to leave dog waste. Discussion ensued, and it was decided that while nobody really wants additional signage, they might be effective. Any signage would require Town approval. We should contact other lake associations to see if they have this problem and how they are handling it. Nancy will take the lead on making these contacts.

- Fish/Wildlife & Water Safety

Frank reports that two of the three duck boxes had nesting wood ducks this year, each with 11 eggs. Frank volunteered to continue managing the duck boxes even after his term as Director of Wildlife is ended. The Board voted and approved the purchase of posts and plastic pipe to maintain the duck boxes. All the duck decoys have been retrieved for the season.

Beavers took down 4-5 trees near the boat launch; apparently the beavers are living in Clark Pond. Many people have noticed that a family of Canada geese has made Messer Pond its home, and they are a nuisance. Various methods to deter these creatures from making a permanent home at Messer Pond have been undertaken, including bobble-head owls, grape-flavored chemical, low strings, and loud noises. We will have to monitor this activity.

We have 200 more rainbow trout in the pond, in addition to prior year's 250 brown trout and 250 rainbow trout, from our fish stocking program.

The recent loon legislation, also known as the lead-tackle law, did not pass, so we will have to try again next year. Nancy feels the legislators are not telling the whole story.

There was some brief discussion about water safety in regards to speed boats in Messer Pond. Nancy will include a reminder of the speed restrictions in the next newsletter. We want everyone to be able to enjoy the pond safely, whether children, swimmers, or other boaters. Nancy reminded everyone that our role is to educate and inform the membership regarding wake zones, boating distance from floats, etc. and so we should continue to abide by that, and this matter is not a topic for the Annual Meeting.

- **Education & Activities**  
Rody reported on upcoming events. We will hold a Weedcutting workshop on July 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. to instruct on proper and legal removal of weeds, including a demonstration of the Weedinator. There is an educational event on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the library; the speaker is Sherry Godlewski of DES discussing "A Changing Climate and the Future of Lake Management". On July 4<sup>th</sup> we will hold our Annual BBQ. And on September 2<sup>nd</sup> we will hold the Annual Regatta; a theme has yet to be selected. This year Jack Hughes wants to end the Regatta with hamburgers cooked in his backyard.
- **Board of Directors 2012-2013**  
Dave Hennig was approached by the Nominating Committee and wishes to fill the role of Watershed Director being vacated by Dick Denise. Other members are still thinking about stepping up to fill the role of Director of Fish, Wildlife & Water Safety.
- **Fundraising**  
Several sets of the newest MPPA note cards will be brought over to Morgan Hill Bookstore to sell. Pictures for the 2012 MPPA calendars will be selected the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>.
- **Facebook**  
Nancy reported that during the month of June the New Hampshire Lakes Association highlighted Messer Pond on their Facebook page, and with Alison's input they were able to post information, pictures and events about Messer Pond. New Hampshire Lakes will be spotlighting other NH lake associations during the upcoming months.
- **Upcoming Events**  
New Hampshire Lakes Congress will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Church Landing in Meredith, and hopefully we will have a few of our board members attend.
- **Meeting Schedule** - The Annual Meeting will be held on 7/28/12.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig  
Secretary