

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

Present for the meeting:

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

Absent:

Rody Denise, Director

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m. with a quorum present. New board members Dave and Marie were welcomed. Bullet style minutes are presented below.

- Minutes from the June 18, 2012 meeting were previously approved as submitted by the former board, via email.

- Business Items

A) Conflict of Interest Policy for the new board was signed by all present and then given to Dick for Rody to sign. The fully signed document would then be given to the secretary.

B) Whistleblower Protection Policy for the new board was signed and submitted to the secretary.

C) Annual Meeting

The secretary was directed to update the draft minutes of the Annual Meeting (7/28/12) to include the question and answer period that took place. Once posted on the website, members will be asked to comment and then the minutes will be submitted for approval at the next annual meeting. There was discussion about the date for the 2013 Annual Meeting. Barbara and Rody proposed to incorporate the annual regatta into the 4th of July BBQ as the main summer event, and move the annual meeting to August. This would require a change in the bylaws because currently July is the month specified for the annual meeting. Barb will write up the suggested changes and email the membership. Nancy suggested keeping it in July for next year to avoid having to hold a special membership meeting. It was agreed that a change to the bylaws be submitted for approval at the next annual meeting. The change will add August as a possible month to have the annual meeting. People generally liked the Baptist Church as the venue this year and it seemed to work well. Therefore, we will keep this venue and Terri will check for availability for July 20th for the 2013 meeting. It was agreed that the annual meeting date should not conflict with New London Garden Club's annual antique sale which is always held on the 4th Saturday of July.

- Membership

Alison reported that we currently have 105 members, plus whoever signed up at the annual meeting. There was a delay in getting an accurate membership list and updated payment information, as a result of the new

PayPal feature, change of hands to a new treasurer, and transition to a new QuickBooks structure. This will now be sorted out as Dick has provided all the current payment information. Alison will send out tax acknowledgments to those who have not yet received one. The board collectively decided that we would not deduct PayPal fees from paid dues, and we should include tax deductible amounts for MPPA merchandise as allowed by law. Anyone who already received an incorrect acknowledgment will receive an adjusted one.

- Finances

Dick reported the bank balance to be \$11,277.75. He provided a Profit & Loss sheet for the year thus far, kept on a calendar year basis. He intends to redo the design in order to classify incoming money into fundraising, operations and programs, etc. This way, balances can carry from one year to the next into the same class or to a new one. Dick also provided a written copy of our insurance policy renewal, \$475 for the year, to be kept on file with the secretary. It was mentioned that the Secretary of State form for listing our organization's board members is voluntary so we will not be submitting the new list per Nancy based on a phone call to the state. Board members were reminded to submit any expenses with receipts to Dick for reimbursement.

- Weed Management

- A) Lake Hosting

Terri reports that the lake hosting season is over, with 282 inspections this year, compared to 304 last year. We had 463 hours of paid lake hosting, and 230 hours at the ramp of volunteer hosting, with additional hours dedicated to training and paperwork, for a total of 350 volunteer hours. A free T-shirt or package of notecards will go to those who volunteered for at least 20 hours (5 people qualified). We received a grant of \$4,000 from the Town, \$3,800 of which was used for the paid hosts. We have a balance of \$160 at NH Lakes. A grant for 2013 has already been submitted and approved, for slightly less in 2013. We do not qualify for a higher NH Lakes grant due to fewer than 300 inspections. Terri thanks everyone who volunteered this year.

- B) Weed Watching

An article in the Intertown Record reported an increase in cyanobacteria blooms at neighboring ponds (Rocky Pond, Rand Pond), due to weather patterns and heat. Heavy rains will wash it out. Terri assured us that at Messer Pond we only had regular green algae but no cyanobacteria.

- C) Milfoil Mapping

Terri announced that at Lakes Congress this year she won a raffle for a GPS milfoil mapping service, and she shared some of the material from the company who raffled it. The company would like to do a demo and answer questions. After some discussion, it was decided we should open this up to a wide audience, including our own membership as well as other lake associations, perhaps holding it at the Library. We can announce it in the Intertown Record to give the facts and raise awareness about the importance of the watershed. We can also invite Bob Brown from the Conservation Commission. Terri will see what she can arrange for scheduling and let us know.

- Water Quality

- A) 8/1/2012 VLAP Report

John presented the VLAP Laboratory Analysis Data Sheet for water samples taken in August. See attached. The state is still doing the analysis, but it appears we are seeing an increase in large-growth weeds and higher phosphorous levels. We are already aware of a lot of decaying material at the Brown inlet coming from a swamp between the highway and Forest Acres Road. Dave suggested that we set targets to reduce weeds in the pond, while educating and seeking cooperation from families in the watershed. We can benchmark against other ponds through the DES website, looking at phosphorous and other quality measures. Nancy mentioned that there is information available on data graphs with state medians to help make comparisons. Dave further recommended that we contact Colby-Sawyer to see if their Environmental program would be interested in conducting a project study to improve and sustain Messer Pond's water quality, and we could help define the study. Terri recommended that he contact Laura Alexander and/or Nick Baer at Colby-Sawyer to assess their interest. Dick commented that DES has little interest in preserving ponds with regards to managing native weed growth. Nancy suggested that Dave get in contact with Andy Chapman at DES to see what can be done. Once we have more information, we can work together and come back with a plan we can discuss. John will continue working with Sarah Steiner regarding the outlier results for the Brown and Nutter inlets, and after further analysis she will be letting us know if we should be doing more measurements.

B) New Bathymetric Map

John presented the new Bathymetric Map generated from data points collected earlier in the summer. See attached. John has some questions for Sara Steiner of DES about whether some areas need more data points.

- Watershed Management

A) Lake Conservation Corps Project

Dick asked if we know of any homeowners who may need a stormwater management project next year. There is still money left in the grant that funded this summer's LCC project. Nancy said she will ask in an upcoming email newsletter. Terri mentioned that the Boy Scouts have not yet been paid for this season's projects. Marie's property has the potential for some projects. Dave added that he wants to spend more time with Richard Lee from the Town to see what we can do to slow the flow of water from roads into the pond.

B) Fall Clean-Up

A date of October 13th was proposed for the fall clean-up. Dave commented that Forest Acres Road should not be done as it is currently being resurfaced with bluestone by the Town. He already did the trash pickup on County Road, and he also offered to do the Fieldstone Road side himself. Dick will provide the list of culverts for Dave to check. With all bases covered, there is no need for a formal clean-up day this fall. Terri suggested, with unanimous consensus, that she contact the Town about having MPPA adopt County Road for clean-up.

C) Scoop the Poop Road Signs

Discussion on this topic started last spring when it was proposed by former board member JP Paquette that we install signs on Forest Acres Road. Terri reported that she and Gordon saw the Little Lake Sunapee dog station; it is maintained privately. There are also some near Town Hall. Nancy did some research on the costs. Dave said he is strongly against any signage around the pond, for multiple reasons, including who pays, who will monitor and empty the receptacles, and how it will detract from the natural beauty of the pond. Instead, he would be in favor of a watershed campaign to educate

people about cleaning up after their dogs. Further discussion on this item was tabled for the time being.

D) LSPA Roundtable

LSPA has invited us along with other neighboring ponds and lakes to a roundtable discussion of waterbody and watershed topics on Tuesday, September 25th. Dave and Marie will attend.

- Fish & Wildlife

Marie made a request to create a separate program for Fish & Wildlife for member donations. After some discussion, it was decided to roll this into the Fish Stocking program. Marie then reported on the road work being performed on Forest Acres with the new layer of bluestone. As part of this road improvement, the town has replaced the culvert at the base of her driveway. She also shared information about a program called "Chase Community Giving" whereby 501(c)(3) organizations can apply as potential recipients of grant monies, and then voting is held on-line. In order to participate, the organization must be listed in the Guide Star Database. People were generally in favor. Nancy can work with Marie to get MPPA into the database. Voting for the current round closes tomorrow and Marie said she would welcome more votes for her favorite charity, Operation Migration, which helps cranes.

- Water Safety – There was no discussion on this topic.

- Education & Activities

The August 14th educational event with Sherry Godlewski of DES was well attended, as was the Labor Day Regatta, and people seemed to enjoy both. The Fall Snowbird Luncheon will be on Friday, October 19th at Sunapee View B&B in Newbury; Debbie Hunt is coordinating. The Holiday Wine & Cheese Gathering will be held on either December 1, 8, or 15, but so far no one has offered to host.

- Other

Based on calendar sales last year, it was unanimously approved for Nancy to purchase 50 Messer Pond 2013 calendars at \$50 each plus shipping from Shutterfly who was currently offering a free shipping promotion.

- Board Meeting Schedule

It was requested that the next board meeting needs to be changed from November 20th to the 13th. Nancy will check with the LSB Community Room to make the 13th is available. The remaining board meeting schedule is as follows: 11/13/12, 2/12/13, 4/9/13, and 6/11/13.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary