

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 19, 2017

Present:

John Doyle, President
Dick Showalter, Treasurer
Scott Ellison, Director
Sue Shock, Director
Nancy Stetson, Director
Donna Doyle

Absent:

Ethan Simon, Director

Via Conference Call: NA

The meeting began at 7:30 p.m. with a quorum present. Bullet style minutes are presented below. Donna Doyle filled in to help take meeting notes.

- Minutes from the June 21, 2017 meeting were approved as circulated with 1 correction.
- Business Items
 - A. Annual Meeting wrap-up and review:
 - The group noted that attendance was lower than the previous few years.
 - Nancy suggested that maybe we should poll the membership to get feedback on aspects of the current format.
 - Dick suggested the possibility of having a guest speaker.
 - John mentioned that he met with Kim about several of the issues raised at the meeting: speed on roads around the pond, the status of the repair of the gate at the boat launch. The group discussed possible replacement options for signage once the gate has been removed.
 - The group reviewed some of the discussion from the meeting around boat speed and the impact on the pond's water quality.
 - Group agreed that the presentations were informative. And the volunteer recognition was handled well.
- Watershed Plan - Project Status Review
 - A. John mentioned that he, Nancy and Bruce met with Kim Hallquist and Richard Lee to review the watershed grant and proposed County Road BMP. Kim and Richard both confirmed that the town is still committed to donating time and equipment for this effort. It was agreed that because of the timing of the grant approval, that the work will take place in the spring of 2018.

- B. Also at this meeting, Kim mentioned that the town had received an unanticipated grant from the state. On Richard Lee's recommendation, the decision was made to use a portion of the funds to pave Fieldstone Lane, White Pine Lane and Little Cove Road this fall.
 - C. John had found a couple of formats that could be used to develop and submit RFQs for the watershed grant work.
 - D. Dick Showalter mentioned that a meeting of several of the local Lake and Pond Associations is planned for 10/17. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the impact of I-89 winter maintenance on water quality. The meeting will also kick off the Spring Semester project that Prof. Lesser from NHTI has proposed. The focus of the project will be to expand on the previous semester's research, utilizing a larger class size and more in-class hours.
 - E. Sue said that she had not submitted the NHTI article to the Intertown record.
 - F. The group had a brief conversation on the lack of progress by the town to update the wetland and shoreline overlay maps. The board discussed to possibility of engaging an engineering firm to develop a proposal to submit to the Planning Board for approval.
- Membership/Recruitment.
 - A. Nancy reported that there are 49 member families.
 - B. John will research ways we can maintain a common distribution list.
- Finances.
 - A. Dick Showalter reviewed the P&L and Balance sheets. The MPPA has a balance of \$28,751. Dick reported that there are no outstanding invoices; all expenses for the fiscal year to date have been paid. Dick also reported that \$2,350 has been gifted to the MPPA in memory Dick Denise.
 - B. Dick said that he has renewed our membership with NH Lakes at the \$500 level, because of their support of our lake hosting effort. As for our donation to ASLPT and the Loon Preservation Committee, Dick suggested that the board discuss the appropriateness of this support at the next meeting and would wait on submitting any funds.
- Lake Hosting.
 - A. Sue Showalter reported that she is preparing the grant for the 2019 lake hosting season and will be requesting \$3400 from the Town of New London. This is \$200 more than the 2018 grant amount and reflects the hourly rate increase for paid lake hosts and the spend down of the funds we had at NH Lakes.
 - B. Sue is also recommending that we cut 2 paid lake hosts shifts. These shifts have very little boater activity. We will try to backfill with volunteers.

- C. Due to scheduling conflicts with Lake Sunapee – a busy period cannot be staffed with paid lake hosts and she will need to find volunteers for this shift as well.
- Weed Management.
 - A. Donna Doyle reported Laurel Bobrowich has taken on the section from her dock to the Rousseau dock.
 - B. Donna will update the weed watch web page and send along any changes to Nancy.
- Water Quality.
 - A. Discussion on purchasing versus borrowing equipment to expand water sampling measurements to include Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature was briefly discussed. The group noted that we need specifications, costs and information on possible grant options before a decision could be made.
- Watershed Management
 - A. John and Donna Doyle will be attending a gravel and dirt road maintenance workshop on 9/29.
 - B. John mentioned that JP Paquette is working with the other owners of the common lot to remove the downed tree.
 - C. John mentioned that there is a dead tree on the island and reviewed a suggestion from Laurel Bobowich relative to planting shrubs on the island to help minimize any possible erosion. Further discussion on both topics was pended to the next meeting.
- Fish & Wildlife.
 - A. Geese and Beaver Activity – Nancy is still researching possibility of having someone speak to the group on coexisting with beavers, geese and other pond wildlife.
 - B. Nancy mentioned that there is beaver activity in the wetland near the County Road culvert.
 - C. John will check-in with the Elkins R&G club relative to maintenance of the wood duck boxes this coming winter.
- Education & Activities.
 - A. Nancy reported on the very successful July Fourth BBQ gathering.
 - B. John and Pat Harris will be hosting the fall brunch on 10/6. An RSVP will go out the week before.

- C. Nancy said she and Bruce would host the holiday wine and cheese gathering. The date has yet to be determined.
- D. Sue reported that she would check with the NL Inn to see if the MPPA could participate in the Thursday Child fund raising program again this year.

- Other Business

- A. John raised the issue from Kate Lark on the need of liability insurance. Dick said he would contact the insurance company that does our D&O coverage and get a quote. The topic will be discussed at the next board meeting.

- Board Meeting Schedule.

John offered a set of dates for future board meetings and asked everyone to check their availability. As for the annual meeting, we will need to plan around Hospital Days and the Garden Club Antique show, as well as possibly a change of venue. The proposed meeting schedule for the rest of the year:

Nov 14 or 15, Feb 20 or 21, Apr 17 or 18, Jun 19 or 20
July 28 or Aug 4 - Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Doyle