

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
September 21, 2016

Present:

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

Absent:

Vacant, Vice President
Vacant - Secretary

Via Conference Call:

Ethan Simon, Director

The meeting began at 7:00 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 15, 2016 meeting were approved as circulated.
- Lake Hosting
 - A. Sue Showalter reported that there was \$300 remaining from the original \$3,500 town grant. A motion was made and seconded to return these funds to the town. Everyone agreed that this would be a show of credibility and good intentions. The motion was approved unanimously.
 - B. Sue reported on the 2016 Lake Hosting activity. There were 67 fewer inspections than in 2015. She plans to reduce paid Lake Host hours in 2017 based on an increase in volunteers and actual paid hours utilized in 2016.
 - C. Sue submitted to the Town of New London a request of \$3,200 for the 2017 Lake Host season.
 - D. Sue will work on a job description and proposal for a rotating 3 year term.
- Annual Meeting Wrap-up
 - A. Everyone agreed that the meeting went well and that having Kim Hallquist (Town Administrator) in attendance and available for questions was very helpful.
 - B. The membership seemed to be in general agreement with the direction of the Watershed Plan and the proposal to donate monies to the town for catch basin cleanup on alternating years.
 - C. Beth and Keith Greenawalt, and Rick Aseltine expressed interest in helping with the writing of newsletters to the residents of the Messer Pond Watershed.
- Watershed Plan - Project Status Review

- A. John reported on a meeting he and Gabe had with Lucy St. John and Richard Lee. The grant proposal was reviewed and the town agrees that it integrates well with the ongoing work on County Road. The town will provide a letter of support to be included with the grant application.
- B. John reported that he received the Project Tracking Spreadsheet from NH DES and is still working towards a 10/21 submission date for the grant proposal. The proposal will target four efforts: County Road buffers, outreach to upper County Road Brook residents, Septic Survey completion and Filtering options at the County Road Brook culvert.
- C. Relative to initiating the outreach effort, John mentioned that he obtained a Watershed mailing list from the assessor's office. Ethan suggested that all communications focus on and stress the impact to the pond and watershed. Ethan also agreed to coordinate this effort (the timing will depend on when/if the grant application is approved).

Ethan offered several possible newsletter topics: Septic tank maintenance, fertilizer impacts, alternatives to grass, buffer plantings, general information on phosphorus and impact of motor boat wakes.

- D. John mentioned that he had not received any follow-up from the planning board meeting where he presented the Watershed plan and Non-Structural BMP recommendations. He will contact Lucy to determine the status of those recommendations.
 - E. Dick Showalter reported that there will be a meeting of several of the local lake and pond associations at the LSPA on 10/5. The goal will be to share concerns and look for opportunities to partner. The MPPA will also present the work on the Watershed Plan developed by Gabe.
 - F. The group reviewed the possibility of partnering with local schools and discussed ideas on how to reinstate those conversations.
 - G. John mentioned that he will contact ASLPT and abutters on County Road to review the grant application and hopefully gain several other letters of support.
- Membership/Recruitment.
 - A. Dick Showalter presented a plan he and Nancy Stetson put together relative to the coordination of his role as treasurer and her work on managing the web site, PayPal and new membership communication.
 - B. The group discussed the idea of retaining previous board members as consultants, including them on board emails and asking them for comment. The board agreed to ask Dick Denise and Nancy Stetson if they would serve in that capacity. The board will review and potentially expand to other members.
 - C. There are currently 38 paid members – down about 10 – 15 members from 2015. The board reviewed the current membership list and discussed how to reach out to the membership to

foster early signups. Potentially a concerted effort at the holiday party and right after the New Year with targeted letters/emails.

Dick Showalter will contact Nancy who had some ideas on a plan for 2017.

- Finances.

- A. The signatures on the bank accounts have been updated, Dick Showalter and John Doyle have signing authority. The Post Office Box also can be accessed by Dick and John.

Based on our conversation with Dick Denise, Dick Showalter recommended simplifying the accounting process. The recommendation is to remove all ear-marked accounts and create just a general operation budget. The rationale being we are not tracking the use of the monies now and this will simplify the overall work effort

- B. Dick Showalter presented the DO insurance policy and the board voted unanimously to renew the contract.
- C. Gabe's invoice for 10 hours was approved. John proposed and the board agreed to approve an additional 10 hours to support the grant work, meetings over the next few months and work on the next phase of watershed plan.
- D. Dick Showalter will check if we need to provide a 1099 for Gabe's work

- Weed Management.

- A. No report

- Water Quality.

- A. John reported that Gabe is still working on an expanded water sampling plan.

- Watershed Management

- A. John reported that the Bog Road culvert was replaced and the boat launch repaired by the Town DPW. The DPW plans to reinforce the boat launch again in the spring with new material mixed with concrete.
- B. It was noted that the Rogoff property has been sold. The board discussed reaching out to new owners about the boat launch that is on their property.

- Fish & Wildlife.

- A. John will contact the Elkins Fish and Game relative to wood duck box maintenance this winter.

- Education & Activities.
 - A. Fall Brunch – scheduled for 9/25 at Jeff and Barbara Troxell’s home.
 - B. John will send email to ask if anyone is interested in hosting the Holiday Wine and Cheese gathering.

- Other Business
 - A. Sue gave JP and Curt gas cards – reimbursement for the use of their tractor and trailer during the Spring Culvert cleanup.
 - B. Gotomeeting – because of the expense we will look to find a less costly replacement. John will submit invoices for the use of the application over the last year. Since it was not preapproved, John asked and the board approved a reimbursement of 50%.

- Board Meeting Schedule.
 - A) Proposed Meeting Schedule for rest of the year:
11/16, 2/15, 4/19, 6/21 July/August (?) - Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Doyle