

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NOVEMBER 12, 2013

Present:

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

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

- Minutes from the September 10, 2013 meeting were previously approved via email and have been posted to the MPPA website.
- Business Items
 - A. Loon nest. Member Derek Hunt appeared before the board to propose a floating raft for loon nesting, which would need approval by the Loon Preservation Committee. The floating nest provides better protection for loons as it rises with the water level, yet is no guarantee to attract a nesting pair of loons. They are generally granted after two failed attempts at loon nesting. We had loon sightings on the pond last summer but no evidence of nesting, making this a non-action item at this time.
 - B. Boat launch erosion. Nancy reported that the boat launch has deteriorated from erosion. The Town has done work at the Pleasant Lake boat launch using concrete mats held in place with gravel, and she has made an inquiry with Richard Lee, Public Works, to see if we could have the same. In addition, the Town is installing a slip sleeve to the rusting Bog Road culvert to keep it open and functional.
 - C. Watershed signs. Nancy has given the watershed sign information to Town Administrator Kim Hallquist for review. There was some question about whether such signs are allowed, but Nancy reminded her that watershed signs already exist for LSPA. Once we get the two signs installed on County Road, we can discuss further about installing others on Bog and Burpee Hill roads.

- **Membership.** Alison reported that we are currently at 115 members. She received an email from Linda Jackman requesting the MPPA annual report by January 16th. A sizeable donation was received from among the membership for the Watershed Management Plan. Discussion was held regarding whether to publicly acknowledge such gifts, as well as solicitation of additional gifts before year end. Further discussion on this was held later in the meeting (see Watershed Management Plan, Item G).
- **Treasurer's Report.** Dick reported that the cash balance is currently \$13,878.88. He added a new subclass on the books for Watershed Management, which will be a temporary two-year category throughout the span of the watershed management plan, and will be useful for tracking how much is raised for this effort and how much is spent.
- **Weed Management.** We received a final report from Terri on lake hosting, weed watching and trash pickup. This season there were 313 Messer Pond boat inspections, 329.75 total volunteer lake host hours, 365.25 paid lake host hours, continued weed watching with no signs of invasive species, and monthly trash pickup along County Road. The report acknowledges and thanks all the volunteers. Much of this information will be incorporated into the Town Annual Report. We need a new volunteer to coordinate the road cleanup from May through October.
- **Water Quality.** A second water sampling was done in September but data was not shared with the Board. We are looking to change our contact for water sampling for next year. In future, we will have the lab mail results to the MPPA post office box.
- **Watershed Management.**
 - A) **General Mailing to Members of the Watershed.** A general informational mailing to members of the watershed is targeted for spring to coincide with the fertilizing and planting season.
 - B) **Culvert Review.** Dave and Scott conducted the fall culvert review. Scott will spearhead the spring effort. All culverts were clean, including the steep areas on Forest Acres where the pipes have sumps. Dave wants to ensure that Richard Lee inspects/cleans those every year. Engaging Richard in future clean-outs by having him walk with us, or clean them out ahead, we may be better positioned to request a sump on swale to collect sand before it gets into Nutter Brook inlet. We would also like to include Gabe Bolin in future culvert reviews to ensure best stormwater management and to bring new energy to the spring clean-up.

- Fish & Wildlife. Nancy is storing the duck decoys. Regarding oiling the Canada goose eggs, she has filed a report saying we had no eggs this season; this is needed in order to apply next year.

- Education & Activities

A) Snowbird luncheon. Barbara reported that 10 people attended the luncheon this year, fewer than expected for the amount of planning involved. Next year she plans to make the luncheon more casual by having attendees just order off the menu at the selected restaurant.

B) Holiday wine and cheese. This year's Holiday gathering will be on December 7th at the Stetsons from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Nancy will be sending out an email to the membership about this event.

C) Educational talk. Barbara asked for suggestions for an annual educational talk, which is strongly suggested but not a mandate as part of our 501c(3) status. It was decided that for 2013 we will count as our educational presentation the "living laboratory" tour and discussion on Messer Pond that took place in conjunction with the 2013 Lakes Congress. Barbara would like the library meeting with Gabe Bolin to count for the 2014 talk.

- BaseFlow Watershed Plan.

A) Current Status of Watershed Plan. John shared his latest communications with Gabe. He requests that we identify four sampling points. He is filing a quality assurance plan with the state. John suggested, and the Board agreed, that we should request monthly bulleted points from Gabe on his progress, and he could combine this with his bill, including percentage of tasks completed.

B) Grants. The Moose Plate grant was submitted and we can expect an answer in about a week. Nancy and John are working on NH Charities grant, and this should be going in by November 15th.

C) Kickoff Meeting Wrap-up. The Watershed Management Plan kickoff meeting went well with a good turnout. This opened the door for further conversations or collaboration with the Town, Lake Sunapee Protective Association, and Colby Sawyer.

D) Water Testing. Nancy will make contact with water testing companies regarding well water testing and get quotes to offer MPPA members a discount. This would be a new program. It was suggested that we find out from Gabe whether he wants us to do well water testing, or ground water testing as well.

E) Volunteer Training. Barbara is coordinating an initial volunteer meeting on November 22nd at 9:30. Volunteers include Barb, Sue, Jeff, Dave, Terri, Dick, Derek, Curt, Pat and Sue's

son. They will be discussing training and activities to be done by volunteers, which will help reduce the cost of the watershed plan, and many of these can be done during the winter months.

F) Eric Williams “success story examples”. Item was not discussed.

G) Membership Update and Solicitation Letter. The Board plans to send out a membership letter with an update on what has been done to date on the Watershed Management Plan. John will draft this letter within the next few weeks. Separately Dick will draft a financial assessment and solicitation letter with a direct request for financial assistance towards cost of the Watershed Plan. Both will be targeted to go out by the end of the month to families living on and around the pond. This is the time of year that people finish making their charitable donations for the current tax year. The letter will be followed up with an email and/or phone calls for maximum participation.

- Other Business

A) Stewardship Network. Barbara and Dave attended an informational meeting on the Stewardship Network, a statewide information bank on events for volunteers. While it is still in start-up mode, it appears to be a useful tool and something we should watch.

B) Graze Speaker Series. Barbara brought up the Graze Speaker Series, a group working with Graze Restaurant in New London, to bring monthly speaker events to the local area about topics concerning ways to live sustainably.

- Board Meeting Schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for 2/18/14.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig
MPPA Secretary