

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
NOVEMBER 13, 2012

Present for the meeting:

Nancy Stetson, President  
Terri Bingham, Vice President  
Dick Denise, Treasurer  
Rody Denise, Director  
John Doyle, Director  
Marie Rossachacj, Director  
Alison Hennig, Secretary

Absent:

Barbara Troxell, Director  
Dave Hennig, Director

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

- Minutes from the September 18, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved as submitted, with the following correction: Date of next annual meeting should be 2013, not 2012. Annual Meeting minutes dated July 28, 2012 were also unanimously approved as submitted, with the following corrections: Remove director types from new board member names; under Water Quality, change word “acidity” to “phosphorous”.
- Business Items
  - A) Board Meeting Length. Nancy announced the goal to keep meetings to a two-hour limit. To help achieve this goal, she suggested that agenda items requiring thought and discussion be sent ahead to board members for consideration before the meeting.
  - B) GuideStar Registration for Chase Community Giving Program. Marie asked the board to consider applying for Chase’s annual charitable giving program to nonprofit organizations in the form of grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$1M. To qualify, the organization must register on-line at GuideStar by the end of the year and provide basic information about MPPA. After some discussion it was unanimously voted that we will go forward. Nancy will register by 12/31/12, and Marie will keep tabs on deadlines.
  - C) LSPA Roundtable Meeting. Marie and Dave went to this meeting on September 25<sup>th</sup>, attended by other area lake and pond associations, including Lake Sunapee, Little Lake Sunapee, Pleasant Lake, Highland Lake, Bradley Lake, Baptist Pond, Grantham Lake and a few others. The mission of the meeting was for general sharing about watershed issues and initiatives. Dave was able to move the discussion towards the need for more watershed education, and believes there is a good chance that LSPA may take the lead on some wider watershed education. According to Rick Anderson, Pleasant Lake already does an annual newsletter to their entire watershed; he strongly believes communicating to the whole watershed has helped their membership grow. We can also get their newsletter and look at

how they are reaching beyond their current members. Everyone at the meeting agreed that improving our lakes requires getting to people beyond those directly on the lake.

D) Transition Town Initiative. Marie and Barbara both attended this meeting on October 18<sup>th</sup>, held at LSPA and hosted by Colby-Sawyer students. Transition Town Initiative is a community-led process on raising awareness as well as planning and action for ways to improve the community, modeled after European countries that are already doing this. Colby-Sawyer students in the Third Year Environmental Science program are helping to build the Transition Town Initiative in the Kearsarge area as part of their community-based research project. Marie recommended the website, [Kearsarge Transition](#), and the online short video which was shown at the meeting, [Transition 1.0](#). We will be interested to see how this progresses and how the town participates. Nancy will be happy to distribute information to the membership rather than have MPPA get directly involved.

- Membership. Alison reported that we currently have 131 members, which is approximately the same number as last year. While we did gain a few new families, there were three families who did not to renew memberships this year.
- Finances. Dick reports the bank balance to be \$11,387. He provided a current Profit & Loss sheet for January through November. He also distributed recent mail and noted there are some recent checks to deposit. He also commented that the latest issue of NH Lakes newsletter has a picture of one of our Lake Conservation Corps projects. Nancy requested that Dick email the P&L report to board members prior to meetings for review, and if anyone has questions they can be emailed to Dick.

- Weed Management

A) Lake Hosting. Terri reported that four volunteer hosts qualified for the free note cards or tee shirt by putting in at least 20 hours at the boat launch. Two of these individuals waived their free gift.

B) Weed Watching. Terri reported that not all volunteer weed watchers have filed their reports for the weed watching season. Janie Webster will be retiring as a weed watcher next year, so there will be an opening. Terri will email the membership about both lake hosting and weed watching prior to next season. She will also mention that either could be a community service project that would fulfill high school students' community service requirement.

C) Milfoil Crisis Prize Meeting. As reported at the last meeting, Terri won a professional Milfoil Mapping service with a value of \$1,200 as a prize at the NH Lakes Congress. She will continue to work with these folks to put together an initial meeting in the spring, probably April or May, and members of other lake associations may wish to attend. We could

possibly use this service to monitor our native milfoil and incorporate pictures for comparison over time. She will give an update at the February meeting.

- Water Quality. John reported that Sara Steiner from DES is still working on our water analysis and this should be complete in one to two months. We are interested to learn more about the oddities in our recent readings. John suggested augmenting our new bathymetric readings by borrowing the DES equipment again this spring to take additional readings in areas that might have been missed or that could use more coverage.
- Watershed Management
  - A) Lake Conservation Corps Project. Nancy will be soliciting the membership after the holidays for suggested stormwater management projects for next summer. Terri mentioned that if LCC has an open house, we could invite the Intertown Record, as this would be a nice interest piece for MPPA.
  - B) Adopt County Road for Trash Cleanup. Terri and Dave have worked with the Town on “adopting” County Road for trash cleanup, covering County Road between the 4-way at Knights Hill up to Tracy Road. They will speak with the Town about whether they can provide signage indicating that MPPA has adopted this portion of road. This will be a three-season endeavor (spring, summer, fall); right now Terri and Dave are each covering half the area, but in the future we’d like to involve the membership for performing the cleanup twice a month for 7-8 months of the year. Barbara suggested that we consider adding Bog Road by the boat ramp.
  - C) Contact Colby-Sawyer about possible Water Quality Project. During his absence, Dave provided a written report on this topic. He has made contact with the College about them getting more involved with our testing and the greater watershed. John and Dave will follow up to try and set up a meeting after the first of the year. Dave intends to do work this winter on the 90% complete watershed mailing list Dick had started on. The goal is to do some type of newsletter/information update to the whole watershed before summer. Dave had a couple phone conversations with the State to better learn the most important issues affecting the pond. The short answer is total phosphorous, of which a large amount comes in from the streams in the watershed. We will hold further discussion on this topic in February.
- Fish & Wildlife
  - A) Beaver(s). Marie reported that there is a new beaver lodge. Terri, Nancy and Frank King have all photographed it. Stream flows have not been affected. Last year there was a lodge on Clark Pond. Typically the beavers will take about 100 trees and bury them underwater for food for the winter. The first year there is usually a solo beaver, then he takes a mate in the second year. Marie suggested two websites: 1) [www.humanesociety.org](http://www.humanesociety.org) and 2) [www.beaversww.org](http://www.beaversww.org). These sites suggest ways to protect trees and manage flooding, for

instance painting tree trunks with sand, or wrapping them, for protection against beaver damage, as well as other ways to protect your shrubs. Marie was asked to find out if beavers are protected, or whether they can be hunted. She will report back at the next meeting.

B) Geese. We will also need to address the Canada Geese problem come spring. There has been the controversial use of geese round-up companies used by other ponds where the geese were killed. We would like to avoid such extreme measures.

- Education & Activities

A) Fall Snowbird Luncheon. Rody reported that the fall luncheon at Sunapee View B&B in Newbury, Friday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, was a success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

B) Holiday Wine & Cheese Gathering. No one has yet offered to host the holiday gathering. We will ask the membership again after Thanksgiving, and if no one steps forward we will take this year off. We still plan to do the hat and glove collection for the benefit of VNA, and members can give their donations to any board member. Nancy will include this in her email.

- Calendar Sales. Nancy reported that all 50 calendars have been sold. She would send an email to the membership stating that we can buy more calendars in lots of 25 provided people signed up to buy the 25 in advance.

- Other.

A) Terri brought up our submission to the Annual Town Report and said she would like to do something fresh this year by including our watershed projects, and road adoption/trash cleanup. This is due on January 11<sup>th</sup> and will include pictures. Terri will email her draft to the board for comment prior to submission.

B) Dick reminded the board that expense reports are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

- Board Meeting Schedule. The 2013 board meeting schedule is as follows: 2/12/13, 4/9/13, 6/11/13, and 7/20/13 (Annual Meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Hennig  
MPPA Secretary