

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
November 14, 2017

Present:

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

Absent:

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 September 19, 2017 meeting were approved as circulated with 3 corrections. It was agreed that future minutes will minimize the use of board member names.
- Business Items
 - A. Annual Town Report – The deadline is mid-January. A draft will be circulated for review. Board members will provide suggestions on pictures of the pond to include with the report.
 - B. Removal of the gate and post at the boat launch – The DPW will be contacted to determine if they are still planning on removing the gate.
 - C. Liability Insurance – The board reviewed the possibility of purchasing liability insurance, discussing the benefits, costs and associated administrative requirements. The board unanimously agreed to purchase (~\$500) a liability policy.

It was suggested that the next letter to the membership not only outline the purpose and coverage of this insurance package but also review the requirements that liability insurance entails both personally as well as an association (for example, the MPPA needing to maintain participation lists, and volunteers will be asked to sign acknowledgements of responsibility).

- Watershed Plan - Project Status Review
 - A. Lake Association/NHTI Meeting – The meeting was held on 10/17 and was well attended. The presentations by the representatives from DES and DOT were informative. The meeting ended with an open discussion lead by Prof. Lesser on the possible goals and outcomes of her proposed student research projects in the spring semester of 2018.

- B. The Board discussed the recent paving of Fieldstone Lane, White Pine Lane and Little Cove Road by the DPW. The Board on behalf of the Association, will send a note to the Town Administrator and DPW Director thanking them for funding and completing the roadwork before winter.
 - C. The group had a brief conversation on the lack of progress by the town to update the wetland and shoreline overlay maps. The MPPA may be extended an invitation to participate in a working group that is preparing zoning warrants for the next town meeting.
 - D. Gabe Bolin is now working at Stone Environmental, based in Vermont. The firm does Watershed Management work and is focused at expanding to New Hampshire.
- Membership/Recruitment.
 - A. There are currently 56 family memberships; up from 49 reported at the last meeting.
 - B. As well as liability insurance, the board discussed other items that could be covered in the next membership letter. Some of the topics suggested were: reminding residents to renew their membership, asking for volunteers to help update the Association's brochure, soliciting ideas on new signage at the boat launch, reminding folks on ways they can impact water quality (septic maintenance, fertilizing, salting), and helping with the outreach efforts proposed in the current grant.
 - C. There have been 17 responses to the Annual Meeting Survey.
 - D. The board agreed that updates to the membership list will be distributed in excel format; facilitating the generation of distribution lists.
- Finances.
 - A. The Board reviewed the P&L and Balance sheets. The MPPA has a balance of \$29,041.
 - B. The board continued the discussion from the last meeting on the appropriateness of some of the donations to other non-profit organizations. Because their mission does not directly align with that of the MPPA, the Board voted unanimously to forgo donations to ASLPT and the Loon Preservation Society.
- Lake Hosting.
 - A. We submitted our grant request at a joint meeting of the Select Board and Budget Committee. Our request is for \$3,400, which is \$200 more than the previous year. This request reflects the elimination of two paid lake host shifts – the boat traffic did not justify the expenditure.

- Weed Management.
 - A. The MPPA web site has been updated with a map of the pond that outlines weed watching assignments.
- Water Quality.
 - A. The board continued its discussion on purchasing versus borrowing equipment to expand water sampling measurements. Costs, capabilities, and scheduling requirements were reviewed in relation to possibly broadening our current water sampling procedure. The board agreed that it would be appropriate to work with Gabe (and possibly Prof. Lesser), review the current process and have them recommend changes to the sampling procedure. And then use those requirements to initiate a purchase and/or possible grant request.
- Watershed Management
 - A. John and Donna Doyle discussed several of the topics brought up at the Dirt/Gravel Road Maintenance Workshop they attended on 9/29. Two of the points: dirt roads are more expensive to maintain and BMPs need to be designed with maintenance in mind.
 - B. The owners of the common lot will be removing the downed tree.
 - C. The dead tree on the Island (and possible resulting soil disruption if it falls) was discussed. The Board agreed that our concerns need to be discussed with the Town/DPW.
- Fish & Wildlife.
 - A. Geese and Beaver Activity – Nancy will research the possibility of having someone speak to the group in spring/early summer.
 - B. Elkins R&G club will be maintaining and expanding the wood duck boxes this coming winter.
- Education & Activities.
 - A. The Fall Brunch hosted by John and Pat Harris was well attended.
 - B. The Holiday Party will be hosted by Bruce and Nancy Stetson on 12/9.
 - C. The MPPA has been scheduled to participate in the NL Inn Thursday Child fund raising program again this year on June 7th.
- Other Business
 - A. The Board briefly discussed one possible topic for the Annual Meeting – the 1938 hurricane.

- B. With the anticipated removal of the boat launch gate and signage, the Board discussed goals for what should be done in place of this. The Board agreed that the goal of the new signage should be to convey information about the purpose of lake hosting and the MPPA, stress watershed stewardship and the importance of boating rules. An equally important concern to the Board is keeping the footprint of the new signage as small and unobtrusive as possible.
 - C. The board reviewed a couple of possible options of maps of the watershed. The purpose of the maps would be to help illustrate the impact of some of the BMP work that will be done as part of the Watershed Grants.
 - D. The Board briefly discussed traffic speed concerns on the roads around the pond. A follow up discussion with the Town Administrator and the Police Chief needs to be scheduled.
- Board Meeting Schedule.

The proposed meeting schedule for the rest of the year:

Feb 20, Apr 17, Jun 19
TBD - Annual Meeting

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Doyle