

**MINUTES
ANNUAL MEETING
MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
JULY 26, 2008**

The Messer Pond Protective Association held its Annual Picnic and Business Meeting at the New London Historical Society, a new venue this year. The meeting began at 3:00 p.m. with registration and social hour.

At 4:00 p.m. President Bob Brown welcomed everyone to our 13th Annual Meeting and thanked the many volunteers for all their help throughout the year, and in particular thanked Barbara Troxell for arranging today's meeting. The president then called upon Director Troxell to introduce our guest speaker.

Barbara told the members that NH Master Gardener Kiki Schneider was first heard by a few board members at The Fells in May, and had recommended she be invited to speak at our annual meeting. Kiki Schneider's presentation on Landscaping at the Water's Edge was excellent. All members took away a good deal of information on types of plantings appropriate for shoreland landscaping, protecting the water. At the end of her presentation, our speaker also handed out a list of books for suggested reading as well as a listing of best plants for NH gardens and landscapes. There were lots of questions from the audience. Kiki's presentation was very well received.

Bob Brown thanked all the board members for a great year, with special thanks to retiring directors Barbara Troxell and Bruce Stetson for a job well done. Barbara and Bruce have contributed a great deal to our group.

The Nominating Committee Report was then presented by Chair Betty Brown. The committee of three, Nancy Stetson, Terri Bingham and Betty Brown, had emailed the membership early spring requesting that anyone interested in a board position should contact the committee. The following slate of officers and directors, approved by the Board, was submitted to the general membership for their vote: President - Nancy Stetson, Vice President - Terri Bingham, Treasurer - Jean-Pierre Paquette, Secretary - Elizabeth Brown; Directors Scott Brown, Dick Denise, John Harris and Deborah Hunt.

Motion was made by Association member Jim Byrne that the Secretary cast one ballot vote for the slate as presented; there was a second to the motion and it was passed unanimously by the membership.

The following officers and directors were duly elected by the membership for the ensuing year:

President	Nancy Stetson
Vice President	Terri Bingham
Treasurer	Jean-Pierre Paquette
Secretary	Elizabeth Brown

Director	Scott Brown
Director	Dick Denise
Director	John Harris
Director	Deborah Hunt

Newly elected President Nancy Stetson pointed out to the membership that Terri Bingham has a wonderful display at the front of the Meeting House of samples of various weeds taken from our pond just before the meeting. There are also phosphate-free cleaning product samples on the table. Glenda Cavallaro has done a wonderful job on a Recycling Display. Please be sure to go and have a look at these displays before leaving. The recycling bins come from the New London Town Garage and are priced at \$10 each. Nancy also mentioned that we will be doing another calendar this year and are looking for photos taken by Pond residents for our 2009 MPPA Calendar. The new calendar will be available before Thanksgiving.

Barbara Troxell was again thanked for having done an outstanding job on activities and educational events.

Treasurer JP Paquette went over the printed financials for the Association. He covered the budgeted expenses during the last 12 months. Our major expense this year was the \$4300 item, the Messer Pond Watershed Study. He gave a brief summary of income for the year, also noting sales income from our Blueberry bushes, tee-shirts, calendars and note cards. Membership dues have not been increased for many years. The board had discussed a possible increase but decided not to raise the dues this year, but has added two additional program contribution categories to the membership application. We are hopeful that membership contributions will help with the cost of our programs. A dues increase will be revisited as it becomes necessary.

At last year's annual meeting, a member requested that we again look into changing our tax status from 501 (c) 4 to a 501 (c) 3 organization since we are having more educational/scientific type programs. The treasurer has made some inquiries, contacting some State agencies and other associations who have done this. In order for us to change our tax status, we are probably going to have to rewrite our bylaws and we will need to find an attorney, hopefully one willing to do some pro bono work. In talking with a member of the Pleasant Lake Protective Association, JP was told over and above the pro bono work done for them, they still had to spend close to \$5000 to complete the process. Also, we must be doing more educational and scientific work verses social activities and events if we are heading toward a change in classification. Having a 501 (c) 3 status means we would be able to accept tax deductible donations. We need to look at the long range benefit of being reclassified as a 501 (c) 3 organization, and whether or not it makes sense for MPPA.

An association member asked if perhaps we could obtain from Lake Sunapee or Pleasant Lake a copy of the information they submitted in order to obtain their change in status. We will look into this and talk with a few more people who have been involved in the

process. There was a bit of discussion about finding people with expertise in this area to help us if we go forward with this task.

A brief membership report was given by the secretary. There are currently 108 members, representing 50 families, with one new member. Harry Snow of Snow Construction is our newest member. We hope to have more renewals and new memberships before the end of the year. Members were asked to be sure to inform the secretary with any changes in their contact information so that everyone will receive MPPA communications in a timely manner.

Vice President Terri Bingham gave an update on lake hosting, weed watching and water testing programs. She discussed the two grants received from NH Lakes Association and the Town of New London for Messer Pond's Lake Host Program. She also reported that we have three adult and two teenage paid lake hosts this year, and several dedicated volunteer lake hosts, naming each one. However, we can always use more help. Weed Watching takes place in June, July and August. Our volunteers look for any bad weeds while they continue to check on all the weeds in our pond. The Water Testing Program has been in place for many years as well. In all cases, any questionable weeds found are sent to the State Limnologist Amy Smagula for testing. Terri emphasized the need for more volunteers for each of our pond protection programs. Each is an important and rewarding experience.

Scott Brown reported that the wildlife seems to be booming on Messer Pond. He reminded us that it is against the law to feed waterfowl. It makes them sick. He asked that we not feed the ducks. Scott also advised that the mandatory age for children wearing water safety devices has been changed. Prior to this year, it was children 6 Yrs. and under must wear a safety device. Be aware that the mandatory age is now 12 Yrs. and under.

Barbara Troxell reported an active social and educational year for the Association with many activities taking place. Most notably, last February's winter event was really well received by Messer Ponders when Musher Nik Palmer and Anastasia Seyer of Brinbella Kennel brought their dog sled team to Messer Pond for a demonstration. All participants had a marvelous time. Most recently, the July 4th Celebration was once again a big success.

Debbie Hunt commented that Barbara is a hard act to follow. The next event coming soon is the Labor Day weekend Regatta. This year the theme will be Children's Books. More detailed information will be coming soon.

Messer Pond Watershed Study - Bob Brown advised the membership a copy of our Watershed Study is available at New London's Tracy Library along with a copy of the "Guide to Erosion Control & Stormwater Management for Homeowners & Contractors" – a good document. We are now at the point that we want to get this study document out to people who can help. We need to coordinate efforts with various local and state agencies, such as the NH Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Services. These agencies do have access to our study and they have been

extremely receptive. The DOT has agreed to fix some culverts on I-89. We have also made Lake Sunapee Protective Association and the Sunapee Area Watershed Coalition aware of our Watershed Study. Our report will become part of the Master Plan the Town of New London has been working on.

Last Wednesday several board members met with Jessie Levine and Richard Lee to let them know we hope to work with the Town on this study. Forest Acres Road keeps coming up since it is one of the old roads, but we told the Town representatives we are concerned about all the roads. We had a good meeting with educational information being received by both the Town and MPPA. Now we need to keep the dialogue going and begin working together.

Debbie Hunt asked if Bob could identify several projects where we need to set priorities. Bob advised that Dick Denise has completed a summary of the Watershed Study and it will be emailed to all members. The summary also includes concerns, recommendations and some actions taken so far.

At our meeting with Jessie Levine and Richard Lee, we had discussed the following:

- Sediment, sand and runoff.
- Design of culverts (longer culverts would help).
- A separate warrant article might need to be brought to people at Town Meeting for a specific project.
- MPPA has people power, but does not have financial depth.
- Smaller projects - MPPA is planning a Fall Cleanup Day and asked whether the Town could pick up sand if cleaned by our members on the roads around the pond. Richard agreed to do this on a trial basis.
- Vegetating road banks- The Town has offered to provide us with some grass seed to be spread on the road banks by us during our cleanup day.

Bob said the group made it clear that we want to work with the Town, together making progress.

Terri Bingham reminded our members that LSPA is having an Instructional Weed Watching session on August 25th. It has been opened to us and anyone interested should attend.

Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust – MPPA member David Webster made a plea to our members to personally join the ASLPT, the Kearsarge-Sunapee Region's very active Land Conservation Trust.

The MPPA Board has discussed acquiring Directors and Officers Liability Insurance and all board members are in agreement that it would be prudent to have this coverage. We have received quotes from four or five different agencies and have decided on the McCrillis & Eldredge Agency quote because they have offered the best package.

Jim Byrne moved that D&O Liability insurance be obtained by our Association Board. Anne Wustrow seconded the motion, and it was so voted by the membership.

A member asked if we are monitoring the Snow Development. Bob Brown responded that there are a number of official town groups who are responsible for this. Basically, it is Zoning Administrator Peter Stanley's job to make sure that Snow Construction abides by the regulations.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Anne Wustrow, seconded by Scott Brown. With all in favor, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Brown
Secretary