

MEMPHREMAGOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JANUARY 15, 2013 - MINUTES

The meeting was held at the N.C. Career Center. In attendance were Don Hendrich, Karen Lippens, Ginnie Bowman, Lynn Jenness, Bill Round, Pat Vana, Perry Thomas, Ben Copans, Chet Greenwood, Gail Lynch, Peggy Barter and Trish Sears. Paul Dreher, Susan Watson and Maria Young were absent.

The minutes of the November 14 meeting were amended to read that Lynn Jenness arrived late, and Perry Thomas was absent; they were then approved.

Treasurer Karen said it is time to work on the 2013 budget. Committee chairs should submit their budgets. Karen's yearend report showed a checking account balance of \$8031.32. Active members at yearend were 115.

Committee Reports –

Membership – Ginnie mailed out 105 business solicitation letters. The committee will be meeting soon to work on a budget. 5-year memberships are up.

Scholarship – In its first year we provided \$500 or 2x \$300 for winners. There was discussion about whether to increase. Ginnie made a motion to up the amount to \$1000 or 2x \$500, and it was passed. The deadline for applications is April 1. It was suggested that someone from MWA talk to guidance counselors and science classes to increase awareness and interest in the scholarship. It was suggested that we put information about our field of interest and work in the application. Peggy suggested asking other lake associations if they would like to partner with us, supporting the scholarship awards. It was suggested also that we ask Maria about possible student project work for NorthWoods in summer 2013. Paul Hamelin and Ken Sturm will also be asked.

Projects – no report – waiting for spring.

Website – Chet said we need to send requests for website updates to Bob. Don asked how many “hits” the site has received. Chet will check.

Trish Sears, Newport City Renaissance – concerns regarding lakes and rivers. The waterfront walkway is buckling. They are asking the state for money to fix it. The city is not interested in taking it over, so they are looking for other ways. The “complete streets” concept advocates for walkability. The waterfront resort area development plan talks about public use. In 2013 grant money will support state mapping of stormwater runoff sites. The development mission is for sustainable development, enhancing quality of life. Smart planning is to include prevention of stormwater runoff. A parking garage is in the plans.

On February 4 there will be a Community Matters workshop re civic infrastructure, giving voice to local people. Trish would like to have a participant from MWA. Don plans to attend. NCR is going to make a web page for us. Trish requests that we put her on our email list. She would like to help with partnering opportunities.

NCR created the slogans “Genuine By Nature” and “Fresh By Nature” supporting development in Newport; next is “Active Living By Nature”, under which bike racks have been placed in the city. Focus will include walking, hiking, paddling. They would like us to help in this effort.

Perry brought up the launch of the new lake boat in Pomerleau Park. Buffer trees were removed. Trish suggested a letter be written to the city manager, with copies to Paul Dreher and Trish asking

for a plan to restore the buffer. Don asked if the Stenger development plan and the city plan include attention to Low Impact Development and pervious surfaces. The Rudat plan for walking paths in Gardner Park is still “in the mix.” There was some talk re drainage in Gardner Park.

Act 138: Lake Shoreland Protection and Restoration Management Options – report is being presented today (1/15/13). The strongest option presented is the State administered option, adopting state standards and a statewide permit program (\$250 per permit for shoreline development, which would be used to fund enforcement). The Enhanced local option would set minimum standards that municipalities can choose to administer themselves. Municipality administered option – state would set minimum standards that municipalities must incorporate into their zoning ordinances. Non-regulatory options could include conservation projects, tax credits for protecting shoreland, education and outreach, “green” certification program for contractors, etc. If we agree that Vermont needs state rules restoring water quality, we should contact local legislators. Don will email the report to us.

We will learn in February about the Watershed Grant. \$3500 would help fund our Focus on Wetlands and WatershedFest efforts. We need to set dates for field trips and contact speakers. Peggy said that Echo, Salem and Seymour associations might offer funds to support also.

Bill Round attended the Baitfish Rule meeting. No word yet on outcome.

The Home Show will take place at IROC March 29 and 30.

Next meeting – perhaps will be scheduled for Thursday, February 7 or Tuesday, February 12. Don will email the entire board and let us know.

Gail Lynch
January 24, 2013