

**Memphremagog Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting**  
**4 p.m. January 27, 2014**  
**Newport City Elementary School Music Room**

**Present:** officers Don Hendrich, Perry Thomas, Karen Lippens, Pat Vana and Board members Ben Copans, Chet Greenwood, Lynn Jenness, Gail Lynch, Chrissy Parkinson, Bill Round, Also, Pam Ladds. **Absent:** Ginnie Bowman, Paul Dreher, Mary Pat Goulding, Maria Young  
Moved and seconded to accept the minutes from the December meeting. Passed.

**Committee reports**

**Legislative: (Chet Greenwood)** The Shorelands protection bill is continuing through the system. It will go into effect July 1 once it is passed.

**Education: (Lynn Jenness)** 48 people have liked our Facebook page, including 7 board members. The committee has talked some about expanding the wetland theme and will meet soon to co-ordinate with our programs and activities. Fish and Wildlife has put together a presentation on Eagle Point which could be combined with a film in conjunction with Northern Forest Canoe Trail. We need a change in our banner because of the new web address.

**Membership: (Lynn Jenness for Ginnie Bowman)** March would be the best time for doing membership renewal because of so many people being away.

**Website: (Chet Greenwood)** Our new webmaster, Meg Gibson, is in the process of redoing the web page. We need to get a PayPal hook-up. She will be including pictures that people send in. We will ask members to send their pictures to Chet for addition to that section. Meetings can be on google drive as part of a google calendar.

**Projects: (Don Hendrich + Bill Round)** Don and Bill Round met recently and discussed a drop down for the website for cyanobacteria sightings. Discussion about how this would happen. The committee will be meeting in February. Should volunteer hours be put on the website? Facebook and the new website should help get more volunteers.

**Newsletter: (Gail Lynch)** no report

**Treasurer's report: (Karen Lippens)** Karen made a template for the new budget which she passed out.

**Old Business:**

**Grants**

**ERP-IDDE** Stone Environmental's proposal was chosen by the RFP committee. They are very welcome to volunteers getting samples. The next step is our group signing a grant agreement with the State of Vermont.

**Lakescaping (Perry Thomas)** Perry will be giving a presentation to the Extension master gardeners in two weeks. She will be meeting with Judy Davis tomorrow.

**Tar Sands update (Don Hendrich)** Two programs have happened in our area recently. Newport City is not anxious to put the question on the ballot. Chet had some positive comments about the difference between tar sands and what would travel through these pipelines which is oil sands. Don wants to continue to monitor it as an organization and bring it up at the annual meeting. Perry would like to have a subcommittee to get the real facts.

### **2014 programs and activities**

**Septic Socials – (Gail Lynch)** Gail has a five page booklet on how to do septic socials which gives detailed planning. Peggy Barter is willing to work on this project. There will also be a website shortly.

**VIP Training – (Don)** We have told Bethany we would host this again. She has not gotten back to Don yet

**Annual meeting (Don)** Include tar sands?

**Watershed Workshop (Don)** New shorelands bill?

**Field trips- - (Don)** no details yet

**New business - none**

**Next meeting March 13 at 4 p.m. at the Newport City School**

Pat Vana, secretary  
Memphremagog Watershed Association