

MEMPHREMAGOG WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - APRIL 1, 2013 - MINUTES

The meeting was held in the library at Newport Elementary School. Present were Don Hendrich, Lynn Jenness, Chet Greenwood, Ginnie Bowman, Ben Copans, Bill Round, Perry Thomas, Gail Lynch and Peggy Barter. Karen Lippens, Maria Young and Paul Dreher were absent.

The minutes of the 2/12/13 meeting were approved.

Summer Events – A Wetlands Wednesday event is being planned for June 19 at the Eagle Point Refuge. Paul Hamelin is looking into any required permitting. He will guide a canoe/kayak paddle up Halls Creek wetlands. (In the event of low water, the Barton River could be a possible paddle.)

MWA Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 26. Shannon Morrison, DEC, will be the keynote speaker. She will provide information about wetlands and their locations in our watershed. Fritz Gerhardt will identify wetland restoration priorities. It was suggested that we might identify a specific project to name in a 2014 watershed grant application. Don, Fritz and Ben will work on that.

A second Wetlands Wednesday walk will take place in the Willoughby Bog, led by Howland Swift, likely in August. Perry will talk to Kevin Johnston about a wetlands map. A third event will be a paddle through the Upper Clyde River wetlands in July.

WatershedFest 2013 will take place on August 9. Other lake associations will be invited. Location was discussed. Gail will look into holding it at the Dancing Sails space at the Eastside. Amy Picotte will give a keynote describing the Lakewise Program, which follows the Maine model. There will be morning workshops. Lunch will be served, and there will be time for socializing and getting acquainted across represented groups.

Chet said that Kelsey Evans, NWSC is interested in doing a presentation re Riparian buffer planting. Susan Davis could share information re native plants. Peggy spoke of a woman who might bring cedars for buffers. These ideas could be incorporated into another workshop.

Peggy talked to us about Septic Socials. There is a set of 7 documents to present, with “spectacular supporting details.” Don will forward to us. There are willing hosts in Echo and Seymour areas. A presentation will be given at the FOVLAP meeting. Mary Clark has agreed to be area expert. Perhaps an event could be held in mid-August. Information will be included in the MWA spring newsletter, and we will help support the effort. On May 31 there will be a Greeter training, including an invasive plant program. That will also go in our Newsletter.

2013 Budget – See Draft #3, prepared by Karen. Ginny moved that the Budget be accepted, and the motion carried. Karen was complimented unanimously on her professional presentation. Her Treasurer’s Report showed \$9096 in checking account.

Shoreland Protection Legislation – There have been 11 drafts. H-526 passed the House 2 to 1 and now goes to the Senate, where it may change dramatically. Permit fees would cover enforcement as the bill stands. Don testified on behalf of MWA before the House. He will speak with John Rodgers about the subject. The FOVLAP website has legislative updates. A Facebook group Blue Lakes for the Green Mountain State supports statewide standards.

Spring Newsletter – Included will be upcoming events, an article re legislation, president’s letter, publicity for Dayna’s buffer planting project, info re Greeter training, an article on wetlands, with pictures (see Fritz), a NWSC link, MWA expenditures, and Eagle Point work planned for 2013.

Committee Reports – Membership – no report

Education – will work on publicity for summer events

Scholarship – 7 applications have come in from Lake Region, 2 from North Country; none so far from Craftsbury. A meeting will be called to go over applications.

Projects - MWA will partner with Fritz under the LaRosa grant water sampling work. Six dates have been set, starting April 23. Two high water events will be sampled.

Next meeting – May 6, 2013

Gail Lynch
May 6, 2013