



Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Notes

December 6th, 2017 4:30 p.m.

Hebard Building, Room 250

Present: Officers: Mary Pat Goulding, Bill Round, Jennifer Hopkins; Board Members: Andy Major, Stan Chop, and Hillary Potter; Members: Gail Lynch, Valerie Dillon, and Jim Holcomb; and Employee: Kendall Lambert

Absent: Beth Torpey, Pat Vana, Dave Converse, Peg Hollander, David Bushey, and Don Hendrich

Secretary's Report: In the November 1st Meeting Minutes, Community National Bank needs specific names, just not titles, in the motion to open a savings account. To get online access, all the signers need to be the same on the saving account and the checking account. There is no quorum at this meeting, so a motion for the savings account will be sent out to the Board with names and bank information for approval. Meeting Minutes from November 1st could not be approved as there was no quorum.

Treasurer's Report: Only expenses in November were grant expenses. We have received the next \$20,000 from the HMF grant, meaning that we have received the full \$40,000 from the HMF grant.

Administrative Director's Report

Work plan update- Kendall has been working to organize the kick-off meeting for the Stormwater Collaborative scheduled for December 7th. This meeting will bring together our partners and will begin the process of writing the Stormwater Strategic Plan. In December, Kendall will start drafting the Strategic Plan with partners. MWA also has sent out the RFP for the Newport City Turnout Project to three engineering firms. Finished proposals are due on December 8th, and then the review committee made up of Don Hendrich, Bill Round, Jennifer Hopkins, Ben Copans, Thomas Bernier, and Kendall Lambert, will pick an engineer from those proposals.

Subcontractor Agreements- The High Meadows Fund grant included at least two subcontractors. MWA Board needs to approve subcontractor agreements for NorthWoods Stewardship and the Conservation District to complete the work included in the grant proposal.

The new subcontractor agreement also includes a first page which is changeable for any future subcontractors, but the rest of the document would be reused. Since there is not a quorum, agreements will be sent to the Board via email for approval.

NEKO Membership- Since there is no quorum, this topic is tabled until the January 10th meeting.

Committee Reports

Water Quality- Hillary Potter is working with Valerie Dillon and Don Hendrich to get up to speed with previous MWA efforts. VIP training should be planned in April with the training in early June. Fish and Game has emailed warnings to duck hunters about cyanobacteria, which could be an organization for MWA to collaborate with.

Membership- Currently have 116 members and very close to budgeted 2017 membership, though number of members is down. Will have final numbers in December.

Scholarship- Not present.

2018 Events Calendar Proposed list of events will be sent out to Board via email and ask that everyone rates their top 10 events.

Newport City Centennial Stan Chop presented: for the Newport City Centennial, MWA could facilitate a Service Berry planting somewhere in Newport. Serviceberry trees bloom in the spring and turn brilliant red in the fall. If enough of this tree is planted, it could become a city attraction like the Cherry Blossom Festival in DC where people come to see the trees flowering. The trees grow to about 15-20 ft tall, are native, and the berries are eaten by native birds. Stan is talking to the Newport Rotary about doing plantings in Gardner Park of this and other plants, but MWA could plant along shore lines or elsewhere. Gail Lynch indicated that this is similar to the Blueberries for Blue Water campaign which was very successful and included educational events as well blueberry bush giveaways. It was suggested that the trees could be planted along the bike path or the railroad. There was a consensus among the group for Stan to go forward with this idea and get more details. Gail and Valerie offered to assist Stan.

Winter Newsletter Gail to go forward with winter newsletter with Chet Greenwood. Last time the newsletter was 6 pages, would like to keep it to 4. Kendall will also produce an Administrative Director's report for the newsletter. Gail would like to see if MWA could coordinate the membership, events calendar, and newsletter mailing. The Board can start thinking about content, newsletter will go out in early February. Gail needs articles by 10th of January.

Memphremagog Community Maritime Involvement

Northern Star, the touring boat on Lake Memphremagog, is currently under foreclosure. A group of citizens assembled 6 or 7 weeks ago to figure out what could be done to keep the boat in the community. This group has evolved into Memphremagog Community Maritime (MCM). MCM is now being registered at 501c3, has by-laws, committees, an interim Board elected from charter members, and a financial committee working on how they buy the boat. Intent is for MCM to

buy the boat and become a non-profit with an educational focus and tourist activities. MWA has representation at these meetings including Dave Converse, Valerie Dillon, Susan Watson, Pam Ladds, Mary Pat Goulding, and Kendall Lambert. The meetings are open to the public and anyone from MWA who wants to attend. MCM meets every Wednesday morning in the Hebard Building. MCM was also wondering if MWA might sponsor a small grant for educational workshops like the boat tours. If boat is not around next year, then MWA can use the funding for other educational events.

Other Business

Stormwater Class from Sterling College came up to look at stormwater practices in Newport last Friday and Monday. Mary Pat, Valerie, Kendall, and Ben participated in taking the students around the presenting the practices.

January 3rd Board Meeting is changed to January 10th to accommodate those who are still traveling after the new year. This will be emailed out to the Board.

Add Gail Lynch to meeting minute emails for newsletter content.

MWA stationary needs to change and other contact materials need to change to reflect MWA's new URL and phone number.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09

Respectfully submitted,

Kendall Lambert, Administrative Director
Memphremagog Watershed Association