

MWA NOTES SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. Present: Officers- Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Mary Pat Goulding (Vice President); Board members: Doug Coutts, Karen Hruby, Tom Latta, Marnie MacKenzie, with Peter Lepine, Hillary Potter and Beth Torpey joining by Zoom. Staff - Bevin Barber-Campbell, and Patrick Hurley joining by zoom and member: Valerie Dillon via call in. We met in person (Work Commons) and via ZOOM.

Secretary's Report - Meeting Minutes – 6/1/22 & 7/13/22

Tom made the motion to accept both sets of minutes. Marnie seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - Financials for 8/31/22

Jennifer shared that in August we had our annual meeting, AIS grant 40% payment was received and put it out to our subcontractors with \$1500 going to MWA; MCM reimbursed us for the Black River & Prouty Coventry project. The final reimbursement for the Prouty Beach is due this month. First LWAP payment came in. Doug asked about the salary line item, it shows the actual salary with the withholding and withholding match noted as separate line items. Jennifer stated that salary is adjusted to reflect project salary reimbursement in our year end grant accounting, not on the monthly reports. Doug asked about 'NCIC reimbursement MCM' - it is refund of the unutilized portion of grant matching funds (\$750) MWA provided on MCM's behalf for the creation of Maritime Center Roadmap study.

Doug made the motion to accept the treasurer's report. Karen seconded, motion passed.

Executive Director's Report:

Bevin reported that she is enjoying regrouping after the busy summer. She felt that the Annual Meeting went well and was pleased with the outreach efforts of the other events this summer, like the Clyde River Clean Up and tabling at the Summer Lunchbox program and the Caledonia County Fair. She reported that we had successful fundraising efforts, with two memberships drives and securing an annual contribution from Casella. Bevin also reported that she has joined the Rural Tourism Academy group in Newport, which is promoting the bike path and sustainable tourism. She continues to work on maintaining consistent communications with our base with regular contacts via the e-newsletter, social media, and press releases. She is looking forward to spending the winter doing more capacity building, grant writing, outreach to partners and businesses, composing activity summaries, strategic planning for 2023, website redesign and other projects. Finally, she has requested a six-month review from the board and welcomes constructive criticism from all board members, as well as ideas about what should be her priorities.

Committee Reports/ Other Activities Updates:

Board Member - Introductions & Elections for Executive positions

The returning and new board members introduced themselves.

Jennifer motioned to nominate Tom Latta to be President of the Board; Doug seconded; the motion passed. Tom accepted the position as a six-month interim president, and he shared some thoughts about him taking on this position and some of his ideas about broadening our reach and for getting more representation.

Mary Pat nominated Marnie to be the Vice President; Doug seconded; the motion passed. Marnie nominated Jennifer to be the Treasurer; Doug seconded; the motion passed. Secretary position was not filled. Dave is now the ex-officio board member.

Partnership Updates:

MCI update – Peter shared that MCI has seen changes with their new president. She very organized and straightforward. Also, they have three new observers on their board. And full-time employees working throughout the winter. MCI is doing lots of AIS monitoring, zebra mussels are spreading, trying to mitigate. Chinese mystery or

stripped snails are a problem too. They've wrapped up patrol season. We talked a bit about the wake boat issue. Doug shared that MCI is a part of a water quality symposium as a part of the summer research program between Sherbrooke, Auburn and the University of Vermont.

MCM update – Doug reported that they had big meeting today developing a partnership with the Newport Downtown Development Association and Newport Parks & Rec. They plan to host a series of winter events. He mentioned that they hope to do a soft launch pilot of the science education program at the Gateway. State would provide matching funds. They hired Felicia Updyke as director. Also, they've met with NorthWoods and Coutts about kids programming, and plan to share an AmeriCorps volunteer next year. Mary Pat and Marnie asked about fundraising and where will the funds come from. Doug stated that they would use their EB5 money, it is a reimbursable grant.

AIS – Updates, Phragmites

Phragmites – Mary Pat reported that Columbia Forest Products led two clean ups on August 24 & 31, and they are even coming on their own on a semi-regular basis. They were able cut from the new beach and made it halfway to the bridge. Tom asked if the City is engaged with the process. Mary Pat noted that the City is working on the point, and that she asked the City to send a thank you note.

Jennifer noted that we still have to install the plants at Prouty Beach, which should spread and help mitigate the spread of Phragmites. Patrick mentioned that if we could introduce the Pickleweed it might help.

Membership Drive–

Bevin thanked Marnie, Jennifer, Mary Pat and Valerie for helping organize the Memphremagog Lake Letter Plea. Bevin presented a summary of the membership drive results. Alpine Luddites is working on sewing the packs; we are waiting on the embroidered patches.

Tom asked if we are members of the lake associations. Jennifer answered no. Tom asked if we could get the Canadian addresses as well and come up with a bilingual letter. Patrick cannot access those public records. Bevin to approach Ariane.

Tom asked that we create a letter for him to share at the upcoming annual meeting for the Marina. Karen shared that we do not have a MWA brochure throughout town. We need a new brochure. Bevin will work on the brochure this fall. Someone asked if the Marina association might have the option to tack on a MWA donation. Bevin can work with Tom on this project.

There was discussion of membership dues, and possibly establishing a firm membership year. Also mentioned was the need to streamline the online membership form. This needs to be investigated.

Other/New Business:

Wake Boat Petition – Beth Torpey reported that there is a petition put into the state to keep wake boats off most lakes. The petition came from an ad hoc wake boat group to require a 1000' safety zone thus limiting wake boats to a few lakes. Only 15-meet the criteria and 10 of these lakes are in the NEK of which 7 have no AIS. Her group's main goal is to prevent AIS spread and to ask our support for the amendments. These include a home lake rule, ideally with decal program, dropping safety zone to 500 feet with the creation of expand minimum feet in sensitive areas, and an educational component. As all items were not addressed due to time constraints, the board opted to support the home lake portion. MCI is posting at 600'.

Hillary makes a motion that we support Beth's amendment to add a home lake rule to the proposed wake boat petition; Tom seconded; motion passed.

Project Manager's Report / Current Grant Status Updates:

See Patrick's work report for more details.

Patrick asked that we allow Bevin to sign approved contracts for WUV and subcontractor contracts. Hillary suggested that we look into getting a DocuSign account.

Beth motioned to allow Bevin to sign approved WUV contracts; Karen seconded; motion passed.

WUV Implementation Grants – Barton and Newport

Update on Newport Marina, Dave asked where we are with Doug. We still need his signature, but all issues are resolved. The board agreed to have Tom 'pester' Andres to get the updated figures.

Other Business

Casella Donation - Hillary stated she is against taking the money.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Next Meetings: Upcoming dates-

Oct 12, 2022, 5:00 pm

Nov 9, 2022, 5:00 pm