

MWA BOARD MEETING NOTES - AUGUST 5 2020 at the Gateway

Dave Converse, president opened the meeting at 4:40. Present were Jennifer Hopkins, treasurer; Stan Chop, secretary; Hillary Potter, Doug Coutts, Beth Torpey, Louise Beaudry via phone; Mary Pat Goulding, Member; Valerie Dillon, member via phone, Katherine Hancock (VT Land Trust); Trevor Banister, visitor

Secretary's Report

Meeting Minutes: Hillary made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 8 meeting. Beth seconded the minutes. The motion passed.

Executive committee meeting notes – 7/20/20 were acknowledged.

Treasurer's Report

Financials from 7/31/20 were presented. Jennifer mentioned that we pulled in \$1,200 in membership dues. The total for the year has been \$3,278 dollars.

We could do the annual meeting on zoom.

Doug asked if we have ever done a Go Fund Me campaign. Jennifer mentioned we should be OK with the extra expense of the Prouty Project. Mary Pat mentioned we got \$1,000 from Northpoint Auto.

Update re Administrative Director / Future of MWA

Mary Pat explained we will finish up our obligations. Our only outstanding project is the Lakewise Assessment Project. We have until the end of September to complete the project.

The thought is that we need to take a pause until we can hire someone with an appealing salary offered. Jennifer mentioned that we would do the aquatic species grant again.

Doug mentioned other non-profits may have similar goals as MWA. Could we work cooperatively with another organization? Mary Pat mentioned having some kind of meeting/retreat on a Saturday without time constraints to discuss the idea. Doug mentioned that perhaps someone could facilitate such a retreat after Labor Day. Amy Picotte from Lakes and Ponds was suggested. We can decide a date later in September. Doug thinks we should decide if it is just the board or should other members be invited. Consensus seems it should just be board members and those we know are most active.

Grant Status:

Newport Marina -the latest is that the subcontractor sent a letter to Doug Spates to get his official permission to work on this project affecting his property.

Turn-out- We have all the designs, now Tom needs to come up with the cost factors, then we can apply for a grant. We are looking at a 2022 timeline for the project.

Mary Pat mentioned that Columbia has offered their employees to clean-up the area along the Clyde River by the Visitors Center. They have done a good job.

Maybe we can have some kind of gathering to pull invasives. Hillary is going to get training from Meg to work with her association on Lake Memphremagog. Mary Pat said Casella would help get rid of the pulled plants.

Prouty Beach- There have been some design problems with the locations of the rain garden and bike path but the issues will be corrected. The city has to get the amendments. NorthWoods will start the installation on August 17th.

Regional Aquatic Invasive Species -Everyone seems to be doing their projects.

WUV Lake Wise Assessment- is up in the air. (A \$5000 grant) Trevor mentioned his experience with LakeWise Assessments and Fish and Wildlife. We are talking about LakeWise design at this point. Perhaps we can get Trevor to work on this project. He wouldn't be able to work until November.

Committee Reports

Events: Eagle Point Paddle Fourteen people are signed up; 12 was the max. The PR highlighted NorthWoods more than MWA in a recent article. The Black River Event is Casella's. We are invited to join.

Membership: reported earlier

Water Quality: Hillary recruited a new member to be a VIP (Vermont Invasive Patroller).

Other Business

Fundraising, Governmental: Stan mentioned that he, Jennifer and Mary Pat composed a letter to send to Tom Berry to invite him to share ideas of how we can strengthen our non-profit.

Grants: Stan also mentioned the Patagonia Grant. We discussed that perhaps it could benefit our student outreach. Louise and Stan can look into it.

Broad retreat: October 3rd date was suggested. Mary Pat will look into finding a facilitator.

Signage Starry Stonewort for Scott's Cove area: Have been put up, but needs to be updated and more permanent solution, but it is a start. It was noted that Andy did an excellent job mounting the ones at Prouty. Additional signage is needed, but this should wait til the bridge construction is done this fall.

Website: Hillary is updating and would like input.

Stan left and so the notes just end – the meeting adjourned shortly thereafter, 6 ish. If a date was set for the next meeting, it was not noted down.