

Board of Directors Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 13th, 2019, Work Commons

President Mary Pat Goulding opened the meeting at 4:37 p.m. Present: Officers: Mary Pat Goulding (president), Dave Converse (vice president). Board members – Vincent Montoro, Marnie Mackenzie, Beth Torpey (via phone), Bill Round, Hillary Potter, and Pat Vana. Also attending: administrative director, Kendall Lambert, individual Gillian Staniforth Absent: Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Stan Chop (secretary), Don Hendrich, and Andy Major

Secretary's Report Motion (Pat Vana) seconded (Marnie MacKenzie) to approve January 9th 2019 meeting minutes. Approved.

March to Summer- There was a meeting last Saturday with Hillary, Mary Pat, and Dave to plan the event. Summer attire will be required, \$20/per person. Pie and Pasta to email selection of appetizers and prices to Dave. Dave to call Pie and Pasta tomorrow to confirm, also asked them to make up a summer punch. Mary Pat has a call into Gene McCormick to see if he can provide live music for us. Dave invited MCM members. Each MWA Board member will be asked to invite two people to come to the event. Memphremagog Press to make up event poster, put Grand Prize, flat screen TV on the poster. Kendall will email that poster to the Board for them to use as invites.

March 9th, 6pm to 10pm, \$20.00. Seating is 50 max, 70 max people with some standing.

Have secured door prizes, Mary Pat has Flat Screen TV and Tire Rotation. Gift certificates from Jay Peak. Beth will look into getting vouchers for lift tickets at Burke Mountain. Mel will provide a photo. Hillary is looking into a voucher from Clyde River Canoe. Potentially a Pie and Pasta Gift Certificate. 4 Movie Tickets. Cathy and Dave to offer boat cruise. Talk to the Wrights about fishing equipment.

Marnie suggested putting Watershed Trivia on the tables. Will have posters for the walls, perhaps we can take people's pictures in front of them as "photo booth."

Mary Pat to email Jennifer about getting into PayPal to see if we can put an option for buying tickets directly on the website.

Hillary got quotes for advertising on Moo 92, but Board decide it was too expensive for this event.

Ski Tours at Bluff Farm and NorthWoods-

This event started as an idea from Valerie who got the ball rolling. MWA is now working with Vermont Land Trust, NorthWoods, and the Orleans County Forester to support two conservation ski/snowshoe tours. The idea is that experts will talk about conservation while touring the properties. One is on February 23rd at the Bluff Farm, and second is at NorthWoods on March 9th. Event has been advertised through MWA, NorthWoods, VLT, and has been sent to Front Porch

Forum, Sterling, and CCV. Kendall to send information for community bulletin board with Newport Daily, also put up on Derby Front Porch Forum.

MWA Annual Theme and Meeting-

A few meetings ago, the Board tentatively agreed on theme of recycling, reuse, and waste disposal. The Board agreed that they still want to move forward with that theme. For annual meeting in June, we could invite someone to do a demonstration or educational talk related to that theme.

The Board discussed what language to use, came to the conclusion that Upcycle and Rethink were the key terms. Perhaps the two **works** in different fonts. Or upcycle in middle with related words around it.

The Board discussed different ways we could promote this theme during the year. Beth will send a link with a book about Upcycling to Mary Pat and Kendall, as well as link to Chico-bags. These are reusable shopping bags that we can put the MWA logo on and either give away or sell. Bill mentioned a campaign called 4Ocean about removing plastic and trash from the ocean, thought we could do something similar to clean up Lake Memphremagog. Marnie and Kendall to work on putting together a lake clean-up site for Green Up Day on May 4th, likely at the Bluff Farm, perhaps we could get the schools involved and even sell sponsorships for picking up trash, Gillian offered to help if her schedule allows. Mary Pat brought up a campaign to stop using plastic straws. We could look at getting signage in local restaurants and ask restaurants to deliver drinks without straws, unless a patron asks for one.

Summer Events and Annual Board Retreat-

Board to continue to think about events for year that promote the theme.

It has been about 3 years since last Board Retreat. It would be a good time to have a half day meeting of the Board, after the next annual meeting, in July or August, to orient new Board Members, discuss MWA's future, fundraising, and Board/Staff working relationship. Board agreed.

Employee Report-

Kendall and Mel have been working on the IJC report almost exclusively this last month. Mel is back in school now and her time is limited. The IJC study advisory group met last week and are submitting a request to the IJC for a 6-month extension for the project. The government shut-down has set back the project, and we are behind schedule. We do not yet know if this extension will come with additional funding. More work will be done on this project including work on chapter 4, 5, and recommendations in February and March while we wait for the answer to the extension request.

Kendall and Mel will submit a Watershed Grant this week for just under \$4,000. The proposed project is to create 3 or 4 videos of projects in the watershed to reduce phosphorus and then host two movie viewing nights and talks. Kendall is collecting all the regional aquatic invasive

species grant-in-aid application this week and will submit that grant package to the state for Friday the 15th.

Planning for the 2019 Youth Discovery Program is going to begin in February/March.

Other Business

Moo 92 asked if MWA wanted to sponsor Newport City candidate forum radio broadcast on February 21st for \$100. Board decided sponsoring a candidate forum was not within our mission.

Number of pieces of legislation pertaining to water quality and the environment in the Vermont Legislature. As interested individuals, people may want to reach out to their representatives or follow legislative updates: S 68. about wake boat restriction. This bill currently excludes Lake Memphremagog from restrictions. There will be clean water funding bills coming up and potentially a bill to ban single use plastic bags and Styrofoam cups.

Beth brought up moving office space to Work Commons. Kendall's phone does not work at the Bluff Farm. It is \$65/month for shared space, \$285/month for private space. Mary Pat to reach out to talk to Rick within the next week or so. Agenda item for March.

Next Meeting

Wednesday March 13th, 2019, 4:30-6:00 location TBD

Meeting adjourned at 6:10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kendall Lambert,

MWA Administrative Director