

## **MWA February Meeting**

**4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 3 February 2021**

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 a.m. Present: Officers- Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Louise Beaudry, Doug Coutts, Tom Latta, Heather Murphy, Hillary Potter, Beth Torpey. Members: Ben Copans, Valerie Dillon, Mary Pat Goulding, Patrick Hurley (We met via ZOOM.)

### **Secretary's Report**

Review of Annual Meeting notes 12/5/20: Jennifer mentioned that we should do our memory test now rather than later regarding annual meeting notes. There were no corrections.

Meeting minutes 1/6/21: Valerie suggested we use the term Youth Programming as an overall term. Jennifer made the motion to approve the minutes. Tom seconded them. The motion passed.

### **Treasurer's Report - Financials for 1/31/21**

We took in \$930 for membership during the month of January. We paid for the newsletter. AIS grant stands for aquatic invasive species and the money comes from the Vermont Dept of Environmental Conservation. Tom wondered if any new members had come from the marina folks as he had sent letters to all of the members. There were 12 renewals, 5 new members and 3 members renewed after an absence, as a result of the newsletter. Dave mentioned maybe we could send out a reminder notice, if we didn't hear from folks by the first quarter. Perhaps Hillary can mention it in our next newsletter. Last year we had 68 members. We need to have a concerted effort to recruit members. Doug mentioned that MCI is focusing on the addresses of those living on the lake. Patrick shared a sustainability strategy: a benefactor pays the first year for new members and hopefully they will continue in following years. The MCI membership numbers in the 600's. Stan reminded us that he had collected the names and addresses of folks that lived directly on Memphremagog Lake. We didn't follow through on contacting them.

### **Current Grant Status Updates:**

**Regional Aquatic Invasive Species**-the state has sent out the applications and we forwarded it to the members from last year. Salem and Shadow will definitely work with us. The grant needs to be submitted by 25 February.

**WUV Tactical Basin Planning Workplan Grant**-Mary Pat said we had a grant to work with Ben that ends in June. We invited Patrick to work with Ben. There is a subcontract heading to Patrick for his signature. Ben explained the new grant. It's supposed to be a flexible funding source. The first step in the process is to look at the old plan to see what worked and what didn't and then to reach out for community engagement to develop the new plan.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Aquatic invasive species control options-** Tom has had individual conversations with many folks in his networking efforts. He's exploring all the different options in combating invasive species. Options: 1) Mats are put down on the bottom of the lake between 15 June until 15 Oct. They are expensive and require maintenance. All the plants are killed under the mat. The dying plants cause air pockets under the mats which then need to be burped. Newport has considered budgeting \$25,000 for the effort at the city docks. 2) Weevils can be brought in to eat the milfoil. 3) There is a hand-pulling option. No permit is required. 4) DASH - Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting. 5) There are pesticides that can be used. 6) Hydro racking or cutting has been used. Patrick mentioned and explained a shading method. He mentioned a lot of the options are simply band-aides. Patrick would like to see multiple use options with a method chosen. The Town of Newport will budget \$5000 for their fishing access. A discussion revolved around the difference between an aquatic nuisance and an invasive species.

**MWA/MCI Joint Project-** Doug gave an update on MCI. He mentioned again about MCI's membership drive. Robert is concerned about the noise on the lake caused by the cigarette boats. DUMP and MCI are linking their websites. MCI is also working on the Dunn Farm, and love the idea of an international peace park. IJC follow-up: on the Canadian side there will be considerable funds attached for implementing the findings. Hillary thought we should invite a DUMP representative to speak to us.

**National Heritage Area - UNESCO Biosphere designation-**Senator Sanders put Doug in touch with the National Park Service in regards to becoming a natural heritage designation which would open us up to funding. An assessment would have to be done and funded by Congress. A team would be sent to meet with all the players in our watershed. Doug will invite a speaker to our next meeting. Doug also mentioned the possibility of our area becoming a biosphere designation. There are tourists who seek out UNESCO sites as destinations. We could be annexed to the Appalachian designation.

**Direct link to heritage info:** <https://champlainvalleynhp.org/heritage/>

**Direct link to Biosphere info:** <https://champlainvalleynhp.org/heritage/champlain-adirondack-biosphere-reserve/>

#### **Youth Programming:**

**Youth Discovery-**Mary Pat mentioned that Stan and she were laying the groundwork for the third grade Prouty Beach Program. Tentatively scheduled for the end of May, first of June, volunteers are needed. Stan thanked Doug for "steering him towards resources".

**Middle School:** Hillary mentioned the plans for working with the seventh and eighth graders. They are about a third of the way through the curriculum development. Doug asked if we can take 20 minutes to explain the middle school program at the next meeting.

**Other Activities / Business:**

**Retreat follow up-** It's probably best to start with a small group tackling our retreat document. Mary Pat said she would take the responsibility to move forward with the ideas summarized in the report. Everyone needs to sign up on the google documents for a committee.

**Spring events-**Let's all get the vaccination!

**Kingdom Swim (7/23 – 7/24)-** The Kingdom Swim Pet Parade is being cosponsored by MWA and Memphremagog Community Maritime. Phil paid \$250 for the insurance. We need ideas for the float.

**Boat Parade-** Everyone agreed that it sounded like fun; but we need to hash out ideas for a boat parade. Doug and Dave volunteered to help Hillary. Speed and wakes are a concern. Patrick suggested we enlist the harbor master to help with speed control by leading.

**Beebe Spur Bike Path Sign Grant -** OCNRCD is applying for a grant to revamp this sign. MWA is supporting their application with some matching funds.

**Lake in Crisis** designation - Lake Carmi is the only lake so designated, funding is limited. Need to prove high levels of contaminants/pollution plus decline in property values, this is difficult. Currently the negative optics outweigh the rewards.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20.

**Next Meeting – via zoom: Mar 3, 2021 04:30 PM**

**MWA's Monthly Board Meeting schedule:**

**Mar 3, 2021 04:30 PM**

**Apr 7, 2021 04:30 PM**

**May 5, 2021 04:30 PM**

**Jun 2, 2021 04:30 PM**

**Jul 7, 2021 04:30 PM**

**Aug 4, 2021 04:30**

**Meeting ID: 886 0128 5691**

**Passcode: 359640**