

MWA Board of Directors Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 10 June 2020

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers: Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Beth Torpey, Bill Round, Louise Beaudry, Hillary Potter, Doug Coutts. Members - Ben Copans, Valerie Dillan Mary Pat Goulding, Peter Lepine and Administrative Director - John Frye, administrative director (We met via ZOOM.)

Guest, Peter from MCI, spoke first.

Peter from MCI spoke about his organization's activities. Zebra muscle infestation is their main concern. They are getting a picture of how quickly it is spreading. It has been spotted as far south as Owl's Head. Seventeen municipalities are doing their urban plan. This is year two of the joint Anglers on the Lake study which will continue until October. Their annual meeting is scheduled for 21 August. They are not sure how it will be held yet. This is the second week of patrolling on the lake. The university students are doing social distancing on the boat.

Secretary's Report – May 6 meeting notes

Bill moved and Jennifer seconded the motion to accept the minutes as is. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report - May 31, 2020 Financials

Jennifer provided a written report and mentioned we received \$9000 from High Meadows.

Administrative Director

John provided a written report and mentioned we are in a holding pattern with the Clean Water Provider initiative. He also mentioned that a stormwater meeting is coming up.

He has been convening on-line with the High Meadows staff. Training has been mostly centered on communication efforts. Regarding Lakewise training: John went but missed training with Amy. There are 10-15 new sites. Has met with Dan from Land Trust on phragmites. There's a question of how we can manage invasive species in an organization way. The greeter program is active and there is the matter of managing documentation.

There will be a Newport City zoom Summit next Wednesday the 17th, 6-7:15 PM. Mary Pat is presenting a 3 minute summary of MWA's projects, as John will be traveling.

Prouty Beach: Permits are being issued. We needed an amendment to act 250, but that shouldn't be a problem. We are working with Northwoods regarding each other's responsibility. The plan is to start installing on 13 July. Hopefully it will only take a week. MWA will be directly

purchasing the plants and materials and will contract with the City for Robert's time. Northwoods is doing the installation. Long term the city will maintain and keep the project alive for 10 years.

Current Projects/Grants status updates

Strategic Plan: Bill asked if we should accept as is or amend if needed. He said it is a living document and should have a yearly review. Doug had 3 comments: 1) there is no mention of the other side of the lake. 2) He raised the idea of awareness with signage welcoming folks to the watershed. 3) There should be a foundation.

Stan motioned and Beth seconded that we accept the strategic plan as is. The motion passed. Mary Pat asked when we should meet to look at suggestions. Bill will contact interested folks.

Marina Project: The consultant is getting the permits to assure the project will meet all state requirements.

Turn-out project: The next step is getting Tom to let us know what the city will do. MWA might help find funding.

Report on canceled/postponed activities

Eagle Point Paddle- cancelled Northwoods wants to wait till later in the summer. Hillary couldn't reach Gail. Valerie said she could send info regarding contacts.

Ann's training- No one has signed up for it. It costs \$1500 to have Ann speak. It was agreed not to do the training.

Website-There isn't a recent update on the website. Hillary volunteered to manage the website.

AIS- Scotts Cove: Ben hasn't heard any updates but will check. There are limitations on signage. We can't stop people from entering the cove. There hasn't been any VIP training scheduled by Kim. Andy from City Parks took the cyanobacteria training.

Ducks Unlimited - Mary Pat talked to DU today. It is a very expansive project needing a 30 year restoration. DU will stay with the property for phase one; however an organization with more experience than MWA should take over. Northeast Wilderness Trust in Montpelier will be working with DU. MWA should ask for an introductory meeting with NWT as there are likely to be many grant educational opportunities available in conjunction with them.

Committee Reports:

Membership: We have 27 members.

Water Quality: see above

Other Business:

MWA sent a letter of support for continued funding of the LaRosa Grant for water monitoring. Doug wondered if water testing could be part of the board initiatives. The laboratory missed this year's spring collection.

A letter regarding a couple inaccuracies in the IJC report has been sent. Ben doesn't know where it will go from here. He said there is a 15 not 2 % restoration focus on development and agriculture. There hasn't been a press release.

It was asked at the end of this meeting if the strategic plan needs to go to membership for approval. We would present it at the annual meeting. We don't need to have the membership vote on it.

It was mentioned that the invasive chinese mystery snail is in the Magog River.

The next meeting will be held 8 July on the boat.

We adjourned at 6:00 PM.