

Board of Directors Meeting

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

President Mary Pat Goulding opened the meeting at 4:40 p.m. Present: Officers: Mary Pat Goulding (president), Dave Converse (vice president), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Stan Chop (secretary) Board members – Marnie Mackenzie, Hillary Potter, Bill Round, Beth Torpey, and Pat Vana. Also attending: employees Kendall Lambert and Mel Lohrer, Member Robbin Sawyer Absent: Vincent Montoro, Don Hendrich, and Andy Major

Secretary's Report:

One typo page 2 – MWA Annual 2nd paragraph – ‘works’ should be ‘words’.

Motioned (Jennifer Hopkins) and Seconded (Beth Torpey) that the minutes be approved as corrected. The motion passed.

Treasurers Report:

Jennifer and Kendall will meet to simplify financials. Jennifer set up a couple of CDs and explained the interest rate she obtained. The money is making a little money.

Jennifer talked to the group about getting a mobile credit card processor from Pay Pal that is similar to Square. Device is free.

Motioned (Pat Vana) and Seconded (Beth Torpey) that we sign up for the free mobile credit card processing through Pay Pal. The motion passed.

March to Summer Party Recap:

Consensus was the party was an overwhelming success. Some advertising was done on Radio. MWA is about 80 dollars down from breaking even. The location was comfortable with the amount of people we had. There were 50 seats for sitting, 70 for standing. We might have to have a bigger place next time. We should have asked for percentage of the bar. Initially, Mary Pat thinks we should hold it at the same place. We should start planning earlier. We can claim it as an annual function. We got 3 memberships from it. It would be nice if we can sell a little more tickets beforehand. Can we think of vegetarian options next year? The party was good! Cost was a little high for students. Maybe we could do a student fee. Something to think about: can we charge \$25? 45 paid \$20 per person. We should start advertising sooner. The live music was good. Door prizes kept people in.

Ducks Unlimited Update

Kendall said that DU closed on the property in early February. She requested from Patrick that there be a transfer and management agreement for us, and DU is working on that, but it will take some time for them to draft that document. The DU folks will come up this summer to decide on what wetland reconstruction will take place and to draft a long-term management plan. It will likely be two years before we could be owners because of the extensive work needed regarding wetland restoration. The funding projects is done partly through carbon credits. Much needs to be hammered out. DU will come up here in June and will offer a tour of the property. A lot of management is to make sure that property isn't damaged. June 18-20 are the tentative dates for DU visit. There is nothing for MWA to do while we wait for the draft transfer and management agreement.

Coventry Landfill Update:

Kendall and Mel went to the ACT 250 Oversight Committee biannual meeting. Update: 15 of 16 permits Casella needs have been approved for the expansion. In the next 6 weeks Casella will get an answer regarding the last permit, the Act 250 permit. As a part of their ANR permits, Casella must look alternatives for the treatment of leachate and Casella also must have a waste stream analysis done for PFAS/PFOA. Both studies will be available to the public in October, 2019.

Newport City treatment plant is doing their waste water stream analysis especially regarding industrial sources like Columbia Forest Products and the hospital.

There are two bills in the legislature to address plastic bags, straws, etc.

By-laws:

Jennifer spoke of the by-laws. Do we need to add electronic or telephonic option to the attendance quorum of ten at the annual meeting, the feeling was no. We can either adopt them right away or set a later date.

We will vote to approve the by-laws next meeting to present to the general membership.

Work Commons

Three options were given regarding the cost and use of the Work Commons. Kendall mentioned that the shared space option is satisfactory, but of course, the private office would be preferable. Kendall mentioned the major reason to move the office is her inability to use her phone at the Bluffside Farm.

Motioned (Pat Vana), and Seconded (Beth Torpey) that we rent the shared space at Work Commons for \$55/month starting April 1st. The motion passed. The costs will be covered by indirect funds from grant sources.

Motioned (Jennifer Hopkins), and Seconded (Hillary Potter) that we provide a courtesy membership to Work Commons when Kendall begins working there. The motion passed.

Upcoming Events:

Green-up Day:

The city has a green-up day event at Gardner Memorial Park where we can get green bags and drop full green bags off. The city has spots around the park and bike path that would be safe for kids helping to clean up. Vermont Land Trust is also interested in having us clean up the beach at the Bluffside Farm, if the water level is low enough to access the beach. Green up day is May 4th.

Water Quality:

There was discussion of the VIP training.

Nominating Committee:

We need some new nominating committee members. Pat suggested Mary Pat appoint three people.

Employee's Report:

A written report was handed out.

Committee Reports:**Membership:**

Pat talked about a membership letter. She has edited the letter provided by Kendall, and we are nearly ready to send it out. Membership will meet at Pat's house on the 18th, 7:00 pm to finalize membership drive. Kendall and Jennifer have started a new membership spreadsheet indicating type of event the member will volunteer for- when Board Members are putting together events, this is how we can identify volunteers.

Gail will put together a newsletter which will come out in May. It would be nice to send out a list of upcoming events in the spring.
Information is on Facebook.

Annual Meeting:

Mary Pat proposes that the annual meeting be on 21 June. We need to work on our theme.

New Business:

Kendall spoke about two LL Bean Grant possibilities.

We only have kids' T-shirts. Mary Pat mentioned she will contact Gail about where she purchased the T-shirts which were a little pricey. Dave will look into T-shirts. Jennifer and Beth will look into pricing on reusable MWA bags.

Next meeting, Wednesday April 10th, 4:30-6:00 pm, location TBD in Newport.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Chop
MWA Secretary