

MWA Board of Directors Meeting

4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 4 March 2020, Work Commons

President Dave Converse opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. Present: Officers: Stan Chop (secretary), Jennifer Hopkins (treasurer), Board members – Hillary Potter, Beth Torpey (via phone), Bill Round, Andy Major (via phone); Member: Mary Pat Goulding

Secretary's Report:

Bill made the motion to approve the February 5 minutes with the following clarifications: For the 11/20/2019 minutes it was approved to delete the line 'Let's evaluate IJC evaluation' under the Administrator's Report and to add under the Other 'coffee or' to the line re: Steven's welcoming folks. On the meeting notes for 1/8/2020 it was noted that Hillary made the motion on Kendall's pay under that section. The amended minutes were approved following a second by Jennifer.

Treasurer's Report:

We still have \$2000 to come in from IJC. We have \$31,000. We spent \$3,000 more than we took in this month. \$15,000 is designated funds for specific projects.

Update Administrative Director:

Stephen's off to Marshfield.

Doug Coutts said he would take Vince's position on the board.

Mary Pat spoke of John Frye. He would like to work for us. Stan met with him to share information on the Fisheries and other projects. She read a letter that John sent to all of us. The High Meadows folks will give us \$2500 to help us when John gets going. Jennifer and Mary Pat talked to Louise. She wants to help but can't commit to full-time employment with her uncertainly about teaching job next year.

We discussed various ways we could hire John. We will ask John to meet with us on Monday. We will ask him how many hours he wants to commit? We were talking about \$35,000 or $\frac{3}{4}$ year salary.

Strategic Plan:

Bill wants to soon distribute the proposed strategic plan to the board so that it could be presented to the membership by the end of April. The strategic plan committee will work on it 2:30-5:00 on the 18th of March at the Work Commons Conference Room hopefully to finish it up.

Projects:

March to Spring will be 7-10. We spent \$250 last year. We should budget \$500. Dave will check on performers. We need PR soon. We asked 20 per person last year. Shall we charge \$30 a single and \$50 a couple? Liz will get a golf game. Mary Pat will contact Steve Wright about Jay tickets. Placemats are in Mary Pat's basement!

Prouty Beach:

Annie responded. Jennifer said she still needed to present a design for the small beach. The design should have been done a week ago.

Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Grant:

Jennifer sent an email to Kim Jensen regarding the AIS grant. Beth said the milestones are labor intensive.

Newport Marina Project:

The extension came through from the state. Mary Pat will take the lead on this. Andres will send an amended contract and wants to have a meeting with the landowner, Doug Spates. The design phase will be finished this year.

East Side:

Mary Pat and Kendall will meet with Deana and Bob Gosselin to landscape an area near the restaurant. Hopefully we will get a grant from Watershed United Vermont.

Budget Planning for 2021:

The executive committee needs to meet to discuss this topic. It would be nice to have John on board to help us with this.

Newsletter:

Hillary passed around a hard copy of the newsletter for review. Hillary is looking for a location to meet with Ann Bove, invasive species training.

Committee Reports

Water quality:

Hillary thinks we should train the folks who work right on the docks to report cyanobacteria. (For instance, Andy and Eric, the harbormaster.)

We also had a discussion on who should be warning folks of cyanobacteria in the water.

Hillary also shared a letter from Peggy Barter. She would like to have a comment for the FOVLAP (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) newsletter on MWA's stance on the Casella landfill. Sitting on the Act 250 Oversight Board Act we need to be impartial. We did not have a forum. It was decided that it was not appropriate to make comment on the issue. Hillary will respond.

We spent time at the end of the meeting working with Hillary on the design and substance of the newsletter. We talked about how take care of the postage. Membership renewal info will be included in newsletter. Hillary will let folks know.

Revision of MWA's personnel policy on sick time:

One hour to every 40 hr would fit Vermont law. We need to have a quorum to change this, unfortunately the phone connection with Andy and Beth had been lost.

Membership:

Dave asked if we have a form to use. We need to consolidate the list of ways to volunteer. Jennifer liked Hillary's idea to make it more of a sales pitch. What do you get for joining? Hillary suggests putting a charge on the different activities that would be free for members. Can we set a date for the annual meeting? June 19 was agreed to. We talked of a way to include the membership drive in the newsletter.

April 3 Conservation/Art show opening 5 to 7 pm

Ecosystems through an artist's eye. Orleans County Natural Resources district partners with MAC, and MWA provides some of the food and wine. April 3 from 5 to 7pm. Exhibit runs thru May 15.

Next meeting: 1 April @ 4:30.

We adjourned at 7:00.