

MESSER POND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, July 20, 2019 9:00 – 11:00 AM

The Annual Messer Pond Protective Association Meeting was held at the New London Historical Society and called to order at 9:00 am with about 35 members in attendance.

- A. Introduction: Fred Kaufman was in attendance, making the trip from his home in North Carolina. Fred was the first president of the Association and was recognized and thanked for his work to organize the MPPA and continued support.
- B. Remembrance: The group observed a moment of silence for the three friends and neighbors who passed away over the last year: Rose Simon, Carolyn Kaufman and Frank King.
- C. 2019 Ballot: The ballot of officers was presented with the Vice-President and Secretary positions open. A motion was made and seconded to accept the slate of officers as presented, including proxy votes. The following officers were officially sworn in to serve a one-year term for the 2019-2020 season, effective July 20, 2019:

President:	John Doyle
Vice-President:	
Secretary:	
Treasurer:	Dick Showalter
Director:	Scott Ellison
Director:	Sue Maguire Shock
Director:	Tom McCauley
Director:	Ethan Simon
Director:	Nancy Stetson

- D. Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting: Minutes of last year's Annual Meeting (7/21/2018), were unanimously approved as presented.
- E. Volunteer Recognition: John Doyle presented a list of members who have donated their time to the ongoing watershed initiatives. The broad participation is indicative of the entire membership's commitment to maintaining the health and beauty of Messer Pond. The following members were recognized for their work organizing these efforts:
- Lake Hosting: Sue Showalter
 - Weed Watching: Donna Doyle
 - Water Sampling: John Harris
 - Spring Cleanup: Scott Ellison
 - Roadside Trash Pickup: Jeff Troxell
- F. Board Reports: Reports on MPPA Board activity and Water Protection Programs were distributed via email prior to the meeting and handouts were available at the meeting. A few of the highlights that were touched on were:
- The Association worked with the NL DPW to install a storm water treatment system on County Road.
 - Based on a detailed watershed survey the Association conducted, the NL DPW will be installing check dams to control the erosion on Burpee Hill Road.
 - The watershed survey also identified two opportunities to work with residents to address erosion and sediment loading issues on their property.

- As part of the watershed grant, the Association conducted two outreach efforts to the entire watershed over the past year. The purpose of these communications was to raise awareness of residential stormwater issues and the potential impact of poorly maintained septic systems.
- The MPPA is in a healthy financial position with approximately \$25,000 in the bank.
- As of the end of last year, there were 51 families in the Association.
- Nancy Stetson was recognized for her work coordinating the septic maintenance program. Over the last several years, more than 25 families have participated in this effort.
- John and Pat Harris and Carolyn Byrne were thanked for hosting the Fall and Winter membership gatherings this past year.

G. Goals for 2019-2020:

The objectives for the coming year were discussed. They are:

- Complete the tasks identified in the current Watershed Assistance grant and close out this grant by the end of the year
- Maintain our efforts on the on-going watershed initiatives.
- Continue working with the Town of New London to address the Watershed Management Plan's recommendations on Forest Acres Road. The Association will be submitting grant applications to help fund this work.

H. Speaker – "Playing Nicely with Beavers":

Because of recent beaver activity on the pond, the Board invited Patrick Tate from the NH Fish and Game Department to speak on the topic. He described beaver behavior, habits and answered member questions.

I. Speaker – "Wood Duck Boxes on Messer Pond":

The MPPA and the Elkins Fish and Game Club have partnered for several years to sustain, and possibly increase the wood duck population in the area. The Board invited Mike Gelcuis President of the Elkins Fish and Game Club to explain the benefits of the program.

J. Other Business:

- The presence of Phragmites, an invasive plant, on South Pleasant Street and at the end of Bog Road was discussed. Both growths are in or near the Messer Pond watershed. Only licensed landscapers can remove the plant and a permit from NH DES is required. Kim Hallquist, NL Town Administrator, mentioned that the town plans to license members of the DPW to perform this work.
- A member asked about the clarity of the pond's water and how the grant effort could improve transparency. The overall clarity is primarily determined by the existence of the 1938 logs and the tannins from the wetland on the west side of the pond. The work will help by reducing Phosphorus and sediment from entering the pond and thereby reduce the chlorophyll-a and sediment suspended in the water column.
- A member asked about weed growth and the increase in some areas and decrease in others. Specifically, what is the cause and can it be monitored and tracked. Overall growth patterns are a function of several factors such as water level and temperature. There was really no good answer to the question without maintaining historical information on these factors and growth patterns. The board will take this topic under advisement.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Doyle