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MFA Board Meeting Minutes

Date: July 13, 2024
Time: 9:00 am
Location: Wascott Town Hall

Board Member Attendance: Paul Gundersen, Harlan Johnson (President), Jim Sakara, Dave Vogt, Marcia Vogt, Zoe Wosnoski

Other Attendees: Lake Management Committee – Dan Maxwell, Steve Johnson joined via phone

Guests: Jim Martell (MFA member)

Absent: Adrienne and Steve notified Harlan of their expected absence in advance.

CALL TO ORDER - Harlan Johnson, President

- The meeting was called to order at 9:04 AM

ATTENDANCE, AGENDA SPECIFICS AND CHANGES

- Review of attendees and guests, those present, remote, and absent. Quorum met.
- There were no agenda change requests. Agenda approved as drafted.

STANDING REPORTS

1. **Treasurer's Report** - Adrienne Banaszynski submitted the financial report in advance
 - Revenue and Expenses are through 07/01/2024
 - Total Revenue was \$1902.66
 - Expenses were \$1940.28
 - Current balance in MFA checking: \$27,153.11
2. **Membership Report** - Harlan
 - Paid membership holds steady at around 140 members. On June 30, 2024 = 135 members
 - Anticipating a few new or renewing members at the Summer Social on the 27th.
3. **Lake Management Committee Report** – Dan Maxwell
 - Brief summary, emphasizing tracking of volunteer hours.
 - Further discussion under New Business.
 - DNR grant reimbursement still in progress
4. **Minong Town Lakes Committee Update** – Harlan Johnson and Paul Gundersen
 - The main focus in the summer months is the important work of the boat launch inspectors. The MTLC works closely with the coordinator of the inspectors (Elayna Armstrong) ensuring each boat launch has an inspector present Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Also to make sure inspectors' hours are collected and stipends paid biweekly, via check, to the inspectors from the MTLC Treasurer.
 - The next quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday September 21st, 2024 at 9:00AM in the Minong Town Hall.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Annual Membership Meeting – In Review
 - Was held on Saturday June 1, 2024 at the Wascott Town Hall. Attendance: Approximately 80 people counted at the mid-point of the meeting (a few people departed early)
 - Overall, very positive response from attendees.
 - MFA revised bylaws were voted upon and approved by the membership at the annual meeting on June 1, 2024. Was well over a year of work by Becky and Harlan – Thank you! Took a lot of time to pull together comprehensive guidance points, draft into bylaws format, locate and use a common bylaws template, many drafts, review and edited by two attorneys (MFA members), draft submitted to the DNR only to find out we were out of compliance in one area regarding membership, more revisions, approved by the DNR, approved again by the MFA Board, emailed to membership, and finally voted on and approved at the June 1st Membership meeting.
 - Highlight of the meeting was Craig Roberts' (DNR Sr. Fisheries Biologist) presentation about the fish population and overall health of the Minong Flowage. Data compiled from 2023 fish population checks, summer-long creel survey, water quality checks. Talked about the health of the lake and the Totagatic River, good weeds, bad weeds, wild rice. Many questions from the attendees. We have received a file containing his powerpoint slides – to be posted on minongflowage.org.
 - The BBQ lunch was once again a big hit! Thanks to everyone who helped prepare, grill, serve and clean up. Surprisingly we had purchased just the right amount of food and beverages, very few leftovers.
 - See Annual Meeting minutes for more details on other topics.
2. Aquatic Plant Management Plan – (Submitted by Dave Blumer prior to this meeting.)
 - The new MFA APM Plan has been presented to the DNR. There are no updates or actions needed at this point while we wait for a response from the DNR.
 - A concern from Dave Blumer is that the Spooner DNR office has seen attrition of their Surface Water Management Department. Two of our key contacts have departed: Pam Toshner, and more recently Austin Dean. Will need to ensure that somebody is assigned to review our APM and be prepared for possible delays.
 - Steve Johnson volunteered to work with the DNR if we need an extension of our 2023 APM due to DNR delay of approving our 2025 plan.
 - In early July, Matt Berg (lake consultant) performed a Point Intercept Survey. Will do mapping of Eurasian Water Milfoil beds in the fall of 2024.
3. Status of 2023 Grant Reimbursement from Washburn County DNR – Dan Maxwell
 - Dan has been in contact with the DNR to review MFA volunteer hours that were deemed invalid by the DNR and affected our grant application up-front, monetary requirement. More discussions happening and Dan will have a status at a later date. Expecting a reimbursement of approximately \$15,000.
4. Campground Expansions – Paul Gundersen
 - Seaman's has been approved for an expansion of their campground area.
 - No new permits have been made available to the public at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

1. MFA Officer Roles: Need to fill the vacant roles of Vice President and Secretary positions as soon as possible. Harlan brought up this up for more discussion but no one stepped up to take on either of these roles at this time.
2. Wascott Development and Tourism Association (WDTA)
 - Need a new representative from the MFA, Becky White was our previous rep. Marcia Vogt volunteered to contact Trina at Stop-a-Sec and then to represent the MFA.
3. Washburn County Tourism Board
 - Need a volunteer to represent the MFA regarding Washburn County tourism and to get specific MFA events onto their calendar and other printed collateral. Paul expressed interest.
4. 2024 MFA Member Activities and Fundraising
 - A casual “Summer Social Hour” and membership drive has been scheduled for Saturday July 27th, 2024 from 2:00 – 5:00PM at Marsh’s View Point. Email blast (to our broader distribution list) has been sent. Might be short notice, but it’s worth a try. Promoting via: FB, website, flyers. Drawings and prizes. Dave Marsh is very accommodating and this was the only Saturday still available this summer at Viewpoint.
 - There was discussion on various other fund-raisers for the summer, but no events were confirmed. Already too many meat raffles. Maybe something in early fall?
 - An idea was noted from the Minong Town Lakes Committee. Other lake associations in the area solicit and receive monetary donations from their members and from local businesses to augment their budgets. The MFA has never really pursued this although there is an on-line donation option on the MFA website and a line on the membership form. Need ideas as to getting the thought of donations in front of MFA members and nearby businesses.
 - July 4th Wascott Parade. Dave & Marcia represented the MFA again this year at this fun event.
 - The July 4th Ice Cream Boat was again a big hit with kids and adults on the Flowage. Harlan organized the volunteers, the ice cream and boat use was donated to the MFA. A recommendation was made by a Board member to have a donation jar aboard next year.
5. Other Topics & General Discussion
 - CBCW (Clean Boats Clean Waters) update from Paul. Boat launch inspectors are recording a record number of boats launching and pulling out this summer. Season totals coming in Oct.
 - Becky White (former VP) has agreed to maintain our website and handle member data in Constant Contact until another Board member can be trained to do these tasks. Thank you!
 - Changing Banks and Safety Deposit Box. At a previous meeting, Harlan proposed to move the MFA checking account to Shell Bank in Minong rather than BMO in Spooner. Although most of our banking is on-line, it would be handier to deposit cash or get cash for change boxes for events. Also the possibility of renting a small safety deposit box at Shell Bank to have a permanent place to keep important, hardcopies w/ inked signatures of MFA documents such as insurance policies, 501c3 original document, etc. A safety deposit box will reduce future concerns of the location of important documents when the Board has a changeover of officers. No decision was made, might be other options.
 - Proposal to create, MFA post cards and a “Know the Lake” brochure to mail to new members, use as ‘Thank you” cards, etc. Brochure given to VRBO owners for their renters. Zoe is interested in this task – will think about options and bring to a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded. All voted yes. The MFA Board meeting was adjourned at 11:02 AM.

CALENDAR

- Saturday July 27th, MFA Summer Social and Membership Drive, Marsh's ViewPoint 2:00-5:00PM
- Saturday September 21st, MTLC quarterly meeting, Minong Town Hall, 9:00AM
- Saturday October 12, 2024, next MFA Board meeting. 9:30AM Location: TBD
- Town Board Meetings (Board members are encouraged to attend a meeting or two. See how the local town governments operate.)
 - Wascott: First Tuesday of every month, 7:00PM, Wascott Town Hall
 - Minong: Second Monday of every month, 6:00PM, Minong Town Hall

Submitted by Harlan Johnson