



**Minutes of the General Membership Meeting  
Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group  
Sunday, August 6, 2017  
Moodus Sportsmen's Club  
299 East Haddam-Colchester Turnpike  
Moodus, CT. 0646**

**Meeting Called to Order at 10:15 a.m.** by Jeff King, President.

**Attendance:** 61 people total, including:

4 Officers: Jeff King, Martha Cohen, Al Howat, Tim Varriale

5 Directors: Rob Falletti, Gary Christopher, Barbi Batchelder, Dan O'Mara sr., Sam Guy

**Notice of Quorum announced by President, Jeff King.**

Jeff King welcomed everyone and explained the purpose of MRPG to meeting attendees who had not attended prior meetings.

**Agenda**

Treasurer's report  
Election of officers and board members  
Status of grant applications and town funding  
2015 herbicide treatment review  
2016 whole lake water chemistry /aquatic weed survey  
Invasive aquatic plant management options  
    Benthic barriers (Lake Bottom blankets)  
    Invasive investigators (boat launch monitors)  
    Eco harvester  
Open discussion – future funding initiatives

**Treasurer's report**

Beginning Balance	\$935.49
Dues	\$1,100.00
Additional Contributions	\$3,925.00
Donation Jars	\$114.21
 Total Cash	 \$6,074.70
 Expenses:	
Insurance	\$1,500.00
Membership Mkt.	\$14.61
Bottom Blanket Fabric	\$398.81
Donation bins	\$48.93
Web Site renewal	\$157.42
PayPal Charges	<u>\$17.65</u>
 Total	 \$2,137.42
 End Bal	 <u>\$3,937.28</u>

## **Town funding and grants 2016/2017 fiscal year**

Town provides matching funds to 3 lakes in east Haddam for lake projects: Hayward, Bashan and Moodus

- Each year we present a combined EHLA request to finance board
- 2017 total funding to Moodus Reservoir was minimal, available funds were given to the other lake associations.

## **2016 aquatic Vegetation survey**

Greg Bugbee gave a presentation of the findings of the 2016 aquatic Vegetation survey, water chemistry and aquatic management of Moodus Reservoir.

The Report can be accessed from the following link:

[http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/invasive\\_aquatic\\_plant\\_program/pdf\\_reports/moodus\\_report\\_2016-3-10-2017.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/caes/lib/caes/invasive_aquatic_plant_program/pdf_reports/moodus_report_2016-3-10-2017.pdf)

## **Benthic barriers**

Martha Cohen spoke about the use of benthic barriers on her property and gave a brief description of the blankets:

- Aka - Lake Bottom blankets
- Geo-textile fabric re-enforced by rebar to weight down
- 10'-8" X 25'-0"
- Kept in place for about 6 weeks then moved to new location
- Smothers all plant growth underneath the blanket
- Installed perpendicular to the shore either by boat or by walking them out (about 50 – 60 pounds)
- Proven to be very effective in other New England lakes

Martha also told the committee that blankets have been built by the committee members for sale to any lake property owner, the cost is \$200.00 each.

## **ECO Harvester**

Jeff King gave Information about the eco-harvester:

- Manufactured in Wisconsin – [www.ecoharvester.net](http://www.ecoharvester.net)
- Harvests up to 1 ½ acres per hour
- Pulls aquatic weeds from the roots using drum / conveyer
- Skims floating weeds, fragments, algae blooms
- Can operate in less than 1 foot of water (10 inch draft)
- Pull weeds next to docks, shorelines
- One person operation
- Harvesting speeds between 3-5 mph
- Up to 10 mph top end speed for transporting weeds
- 3,500 pounds net weight / 8' 6" wide x 19' long
- Drum / conveyer configuration allows weeds to be offloaded
- Automatically – pontoon with dual paddle wheel propulsion
  - Cost - \$65,000 plus \$6,000 custom trailer (1/3<sup>rd</sup> price of cutter harvesters)
  - Testimonial: Warnes lake management –Canada
    - Had unit for 3 years – 900 hours
    - First harvester he's seen that pulls weeds
    - Very reliable: just change fluids regularly
    - Only repair was to drum - his fault (tree stump)
    - Reverse conveyer can offload 6 -8 feet from boat
    - Ideal offload is to truck or ramp but he often offloads to dock or lawn to save time
    - He's replaced cutter harvester with eco harvester (much faster and one man operation)

## **Election of MRPG officers and board members:**

### **Board recommended slate (terms expired June 30, 2017)**

- One year term
- President: Vacant
- Vice president: Martha Cohen
- Treasurer: Tim Varriale
- Secretary: Al Howat
- Board member: Bob Falletti
- Board member: Barbi Batchelder
  
- Board members whose terms expire in future years
- Board member: Gary Christopher
- Board member: Sam guy
- Board member: Dan O'Mara sr.
  
- Motion to nominate officers and board members per the recommended slate, Motion Passed.
  
- Motion to Nominate Dave Shelberg to the board of Directors, Motion Passed.

## **New Business:**

- Motion to allow the purchase of the eco harvester and associated accessories for operation, passed.
  
- Motion to Nominate two new subcommittee chairman, motion passed:

### **Equipment Operations Subcommittee:**

**Chairman:** Gary Christopher

**Subcommittee Members** (From sign-up sheet):

- Martha Cohen
- Ira McCollum
- Dave Zajac
- Joe Ochenhouski
- Marcia Woodworth-DiMartino

### **Fund Raising Subcommittee :**

**Chairman:** Mick Moffatt

**Subcommittee Members** (From sign-up sheet):

Maggie Shumbo  
Dave Shelberg  
Tim Varriale  
Marcia Woodworth-DiMartino  
Jason Woodworth-DiMartino

**Next Meeting:** To be announced

**Meeting Adjourned at 12:15 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Howat

Secretary, Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group