



P.O. Box 6728 Scarborough, ME 04070
Tel. 207-252-0636 www.merpa.org

Annual Business Meeting Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 18, 2021

Zoom

10:00 am – 11:00 am

1. Call To Order MacNeill [10:01a]

Karyn MacNeill	Sabrina Best	Deb Smith	Erika Dube
Jen DeRice	Joe Crocker	Tyler Stewart	Lisa Thompson
Nicole Welch	Deb Gendreau	Doug Beck	Zach Schrock
Tracy Willette	Hillary Hallett		
2. Approval of October 18, 2019 Association Meeting Minutes
 - a. DeRice/ Dube; all in favor unanimous
3. MRPA Annual Budget
 - a. Proposed 21-22 Budget was reviewed by the association. Motion to accept DeRice/Willette; all in favor unanimous.
4. Regional Representative Update
 - a. EMPRA: Debbie gave an overview of the group; 46 communities in all right now. The group saw an increase in meetings via zoom during the pandemic year and felt more connected.
 - b. NMCRA: Matt Bouchard provided an update on what the group was able to continue to offer throughout the past year. With Northern Maine seeing low COVID cases they were able continue many in person meetings and events. Group meets first Wednesday of the month at a rotating location.
 - c. SMART: Erika provided an update on the group highlighting the increase in meetings via zoom. This provided a stronger connection and discussion amongst the group but also connecting with other regional groups and members. Future meetings will be a mixture of zoom and in person.
5. Committees' and Sub Committees
 - a. Spring Conference: Nicole provided a quick overview of the process for planning the conference and highlighted the memberships openness to the virtual format and thanked all involved. Save the Date for Spring Conference 2022 at the Samoset in Rockland for March 13-15, 2022.
 - b. Theme Park Tickets: Kate Harris provided an update on Summer 2021 commitments with Funtown/Splashtown and Aquaboggan. Still working on York Wild Kingdom. Once things are confirmed tickets will be sent out later this year by Mid-June. Sign up online.
 - c. Track and Field: Matt Bouchard and Tim Baude provided an update on Summer 2021 program and trying to adjust to Maine CDC guidelines. The goal is to offer something whether in person or virtual. There is a potential to work with Vermont and New Hampshire in a Tri-State event.
 - d. Golf Tournament: Tyler provided an update on 2021 plans for the event moving forward and looking like it will occur. Looking for members to help with the planning of the golf tournament.
 - e. Youth Sports Committee: Tyler provided an update on this newly formed committee which was created because of the pandemic and the impact on youth sports. The goal is to focus on providing resources to the membership along with providing workshops and zooms for trainings and trends. All the committees work has been placed on the website, please reach out if interested in joining the group.
 - f. Fall Workshop: Gary Colello is the new chair of the planning committee and Fall 2021 workshop will occur.
 - g. Advocacy/Legislative: Doug Beck provided an update on the efforts made by the board at the State and National level around all things impacting Parks and Recreation; pandemic, funding/grants and support for parks and recreational departments.
 - h. Bureau of Parks and Lands: Matt Foster updated the membership on passage of the Great American Outdoors Act providing more funding for outdoor recreation purposes for municipalities. The focus has now shifted on methods to get these funds into our local municipalities and some challenges involved. Reach out if anyone has questions or want to learn more.

- i. Maine Trails Advisory Committee: Robin Kerr will serve as the membership liaison to the Committee, her first meeting is later in March and will update the board.
 - j. Awards: Lisa gave a recap of the very successful Award Night held this past Monday virtually. A call for 2022 award nominations will go out in the Fall.
 - k. Northern New England R&P Conference: Lisa updated the board on the planning meetings coming up and January 11-13, 2022 for in person conference is being planned.
 - l. Maine Backyard Campout Program: Lisa started this program due to CDC guidelines and the pandemic. It was very successful, and communities are interested in continuing this program this summer.
6. Summer Camp Video Contest
 - a. Karyn recapped Lisbon Parks and Rec as this years' contest winner. Looking forward to seeing videos from 2022.
7. Membership
 - a. Deb reported that we are on track to renew most communities with a few new ones, 81 have already renewed and 17 pending. Commercial membership is down and Deb will continue to work with these companies. A membership list will be sent out electronically to all members and update the website.
8. MRPA Election Results
 - a. Tracy provided the results – all positions were unopposed and those running won. Congratulations to everyone.
 - i. President, Jen DeRice
 - ii. VP, Nicole Welch
 - iii. Secretary, Sabrina Best
 - iv. Treasurer, Karyn McNeill
 - v. SMART Rep. Lisa Thompson
 - vi. EMPRA Rep. Mitch Stone
 - vii. NMCRA Rep. Hillary Hallett
 - viii. At large, Tyler Stewart
 - ix. At large, Erika Dube
 - x. At large, Gary Colello
 - xi. Citizen Rep, Alan Grady
 - xii. Parliamentarian, Doug Beck
9. Other Business –
 - a. Karyn provided a big shout out and thank you to Deb Smith for providing all her efforts this past year. She was great at staying on top of all the zooms and communications with the membership.
 - b. Jen recognized all of Karyn's efforts during the past 2 years serving as the boards President especially during a pandemic.
 - c. Everyone clapped and shouted in appreciation for Karyn and Deb.
10. Adjourn (DeRice/Hallett); all in favor unanimous [10:53a]