



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

## Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 12, 2021

Zoom

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

1. Call To Order DeRice [10:12a]

Jen DeRice	Sabrina Best	Deb Smith	Nicole Welch
Hillary Hallett	Tyler Stewart	Lisa Thompson	Gary Colello
Alan Grady	Mitch Stone	Erika Dube	Doug Beck

Absent: Karyn MacNeill
2. Approval of June Meeting Minutes
  - a. Hallett/Dube; all in favor unanimous
3. Treasurer Report
  - a. Deb emailed the reports and was happy to report revenue coming into the account.
4. Sub Committees
  - a. Golf Tournament: Tyler provided an update, Friday Sept 17 at Val Halla (Cumberland) at 9am. Teams are registering, and sponsors are being confirmed but coming in slowly.
  - b. Youth Sports – No Report
  - c. Legislative Advocacy
    - i. Active Maine Lifestyle Expo – Sabrina and Deb provided an update on the progress for the Active Maine Lifestyle Expo, tentatively scheduled for April 30 and May 1 in Auburn at the Norway Savings Bank Arena. Focus will be Maine Brands, organizations and non-profits celebrating all the contributing factors to keeping an Active Maine Lifestyle. Discussion around commercial membership and to be aware of any budget impacts. Board supported moving forward with MRPA involvement.
    - ii. Flavors Hook Kids – this initiative was defeated at the legislative level and they are regrouping.
    - iii. MMA – Deb sent out the circle chart that NRPA and MRPA have collaborated on and will be presenting at the MMA conference to help share ‘why’ parks and recreation is an essential service.
    - iv. Equality Maine Bill – These bills did not pass in Maine.
  - d. Summer Camp Training – Deb provided an update on the successful event and will explore any future needs.
  - e. Fall Workshop: Gary provided an update focusing on the programming and sessions and will have everything finalized by the beginning of September. The Fall Conference will be on October 15 at The Lewiston Armory. They are exploring the opportunity to stream the sessions to allow for virtual training.
5. Regional Updates
  - a. Nothing to Report, meeting will start back up in Fall.
6. Programming Committees
  - a. Track and Field – Hillary provided an update; 221 participants at the very successful event, great facility and looking like staying within budget.
  - b. Maine Backyard Campout – Lisa highlighted 23 communities participated, down 31 but there were more programs and activities going on this summer vs. 2020. A logo, annual date etc. was established and most the participating communities would like to see this event continue.
7. Membership Update
  - a. Membership is status quo. Deb talked about 9 new Directors in the MRPA since 2019 and recapped the ‘New Director Zoom’ series. Next one is 8/17 at 10am if anyone wants to join.
8. Other Business
  - a. Consent Agenda Format – Jen sent an example of this style of agenda; the idea is to try and free up time during board meetings to have longer discussions on topics that need decisions. Sub committees would

submit reports to be included in the agenda and have one 'vote' to accept reports and meeting minutes. This topic will be discussed at the retreat.

- b. DEI – Lisa provided an update to the board on a training she recently attended 'Save Spaces and will discuss at the retreat.
  - c. Retreat items for 9/9/21 – Jen asked everyone to bring 3-4 goals or visions for the retreat.
    - i. State Programming
    - ii. Agenda and Reports (Google Drive Demo)
    - iii. DEI (Save Voices, JEDI)
    - iv. Future Meetings and Topics
  - d. Executive Director Review – The Budget does reflect a 2% raise, need to update Job Description, and put together a review.
9. Next meeting
- a. September 9 Retreat will be in person in Auburn, 48 Pettengill Park Rd Auburn ME 10am-2pm (lunch and snacks will be provided).
10. Adjourn (Thompson/Stone); all in favor unanimous [11:55a]