

SUMMARY OF MARA CONFERENCE EVALUATION RESPONSES

We had a total of 26 evaluations returned: 20 from Zoom attendees and 6 from in-person attendees. Questions are in boldface. Comments have been arranged where most relevant.

Was the date and time convenient for you to attend? Yes or No

25 yes, 1 no.

“Yes” Comment - Needs to be a weekend.

Those who attended by Zoom, Virtually:

Were you satisfied with your connection to this event? Yes or No

18 Yes; 2 No.

Comments from “Yes” respondents:

Sound from the room was not always clear. Best to have questions go to the mic.

Could not hear some of the questions-person did not come to microphone

Repeat questions from floor counsel not hear on zoom

Being able to speak my questions would be a benefit instead of typing them would be a big plus with less misunderstandings

I was satisfied, but it would have been nice to see the slides and the video of the speaker at the same time throughout the presentation.

Very well organized and run

Very informative

Comments from “No” respondents:

Overall - it was much appreciated! That said - slides were not clear (fuzzy). Zoom attendees should be universally muted if questions are to be read by the moderator.

I've been on many zoom meetings on my computer but was unable to log into this one. I kept getting an error notice resulting in my computer being rebooted. I was able to attend via my cell phone, however.

Live attendees:

Those who attended at Maple Hill Farm:

Was the facility accommodating to your needs? Yes or No

Yes - 6; No - 0

Was the food satisfactory? Yes or No

Yes - 6; No - 0

If not, what do you recommend?

Excellent

Lunch could have been picnic style

Excellent Spot! Great time of year. I recommend the chicken salad. Great option to increase attendance. I may have to attend via zoom next year if I cannot attend in person

Workshops:

1. “Legal Aspects of Administrative Operations”: Mary Denison and John Cunningham

Did the speakers meet their objectives in their presentation? Yes or No

Yes - 26; No - 0

Comments:

If there is a new form presented, having a dummy example filled out for the form would be helpful.
(Notice of Statutory Road Association). All else very well presented.
Was not able to attend (morning sessions)

2. “Encouraging Member Participation”: Roberta Manter

Did you learn some technique(s) that you want to try with your road association?

If so, what?

Use of more visuals at meetings since we are now using Zoom.

Prizes to encourage participation.

Nothing new

Roberta was excellent- good ideas

None

We added a lobster bake after the meeting, and that worked!

Prior to Covid, we had a 30 or so minute social hour where members could meet, sometimes for the first time, their neighbors. Keeping the meeting to a reasonable time is also helpful.

Was not able to attend (morning sessions)

Having a social event (lobster Bake). We use Facebook, email, and signage.

Guilt!

Great ideas.

Yes

Road walk - invasive species

3. “Repair and Maintain Gravel Roads”: John Maclaine

Was the presenter’s information helpful to improving your roads? Yes or No

Yes - 19; No - 3, but four people commented that the online survey did not allow “Yes” as an option, so this may not be accurate. 3 of those commenters left it blank, and the 4th said to count his “no” as a “yes.” (It appears a temporary glitch mid-survey affected a cluster of answers.)

Comments:

The only issue with John presentation was the slides were very blurry because it was a picture of a picture. (Roberta Manter’s comment - It appears there was a case of the computer thinking it was smarter than the photographer, as several of John’s images and mine had computer generated grass, sometimes where it didn’t belong - i.e. the green jacket of a person in one of my slides. The originals were clearer.)

Will use Culvert installation

Will use Crowning and ditches with turnouts; pothole repair

I was not able to follow - so new to me

Next year’s 2021 conference:

As announced in the 2020 MARA mud season newsletter, MARA will plan the following workshops for next year:

- **Administrative: Insurance: What it covers and what it does not cover.**
- **Road Maintenance: Safety issues: speeding, abuse by ATV’s, signage, obstruction of road**
- **Dispute Resolution and Law Enforcement Relations**

Additional workshops may be considered for next year. Please select one item that is of the

most importance to you from the following:

Administration

6 Budgeting, billing, payment services, capital account, auditing, future/contingency planning, and grant writing under section 3106.

9 Formation and continued operations for Non-profit and/or Statutory Road Associations

4 How to run effective meetings

(2 of the in-person attendees didn't fill in the back side of the Evaluation.)

Comments/Suggestions

More Information from Mary on the other types of Road assoc, Beside Statutory

I need clarification about how to change from a Road Association (non-profit) to a Statutory organization.

Establishing guidelines for road standards for developers. Damages to roads by owners or builders/heavy equipment on behalf of owners

Road disputes - Issues & Resolutions

Use of Gates on road association roads or roads adjacent. ATVs / Speed / Liability. :)

More on collection efforts for delinquent owners.

A check up.

Include Central Maine Power as a presenter.

Next years topic of insurance sounds fantastic.

Signage, traffic, speed limits, etc

Road maintenance

8 Contractors: snow removal, grading, calcium chloride, brush hogging, tree removal

5 Pavement: installation, repair, maintenance - what's allowed and what's not

8 Easements: winter plowing, ditches and right of way

(5 did not respond.)

Comments/Suggestions

(Can the Road Association pave a road?) SUGGESTION: ATV impact. More detail on yearly maintenance recommendations

Ways to control surface water flow on steep slopes

I feel all of the above Road Maintenance subjects are very pertinent

Would like both 1 and 3 discussed.

Easements - (Also calcium chloride, pavement repair & maint.)

Other items

6 Legal issues regarding abandoned roads, discontinued roads, and public easements to allow town plowing

Additional Comments:

First time attendee. Good job. Send info on becoming a member

This was my first conference. All of the above topics look extremely interesting and productive to the running of our association.

I was only able to attend the morning session It was excellent and I was pretty disappointed I couldn't attend the afternoon as well. Was it by any chance recorded? If it was is there a way I can access it? Thank you very much.

Thank you for such a great meeting