

WHITE OAK POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
July 27, 2019
Holderness Library

FINAL
approved at July 25, 2020 Annual Meeting

President Margie Bogdanow called the meeting to order at 10:05 am. All were welcomed.

Meeting Attendees: Galen Beach, Margie Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Janet Cocchiaro, Steven Cohen, Bennett Evans, Bruce Falby, Dee Hopper, Tom Hopper, Nancy Isikoff, Walter Johnson, Anne Knight, Roger LaRochelle, Anne Levin, Susan Levin, Bryan Sweeney, Yvonne Van Gessel, Roger Uhler, Mimzie Ulher, Kim Godfrey, and Celia Woolverton

Annual Meeting Minutes

The July 28, 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with one correction. Under nominations – Roger Uhler clarified the status of each board member’s term.

Treasurer’s Report – Walter Johnson

Walter provided a summary of the Treasurer’s Report for FY 2019. Opening balance was \$4177.09; Revenues were \$2931.90 and Expenses were \$1627.79 leaving a balance of \$5475.66. A full report is available on the website. The report was approved as submitted.

Dues and Contributions (per Board recommendations)

New Hampshire Lakes Association Dues	\$300
Loon Preservation Society Donation	\$100
Holderness Historical Society Donation	\$100
Holderness Public Library	\$100

Membership and Updates – Anne Knight

Anne and her 2 sisters (Joan Vicinius and the family of Lois Stratton) were each presented with a framed photograph of White Oak Pond in appreciation for all they have contributed to the community as they have or will be leaving the area. Joan sold her house last year, Anne’s house is for sale and Lois passed away this past year (her photo will go to her family).

Anne reminded everyone about the celebration and concert in Memory of Lois and Will Stratton that will be held on Friday August 9th at the SLA Barn starting at 5:30.

Anne reported that there are presently 53 members in WOPWA. At this meeting she provided registration sheets to be updated and submitted with payment for this year's registration. She requested that cell phone numbers be included for contact purposes. Nancy will email an updated copy of the membership list to all members. With Anne's upcoming departure, she has resigned her position as Membership chairperson and Celia Woolverton will be the new Chair. Margie reminded the group that the membership list should only be used for personal, and not commercial, purposes.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund & SLCS – Roger LaRochelle, Kevin Frank

SLCS – Roger LaRochelle, Executive Director

Roger reported that SLCS is very grateful for its partnership with WOPWA and the Mary Perry fund and stated there is about \$22,000 in that fund. He also expressed appreciation for WOPWA's contribution towards the conduction of a Natural Resources inventory of White Oak Pond. SLCS also received a \$2000 grant to aid finances and they hope to begin the project soon. It is their intention to present the findings at WOPWA's next annual meeting.

Roger reported that the first Cast Iron Cook Off occurred on Tuesday and was a great success. They now own 6 Dutch ovens that they will put out for loan.

SLCS has a keen interest in the White Oak Motel and believe that Betsy's Park is a great utilization of the property. SLCA will be serving as Betsy's Park financial agent while Betsy's Park Board of Directors seek 501(C)3 status.

A White Oak Pond Paddle to Pine Island is coming up August 31st. It's a BYO food and drink. If interested please contact SLCS.

A meeting sponsored by SCLS about "Passing it on...Generational Property Transfer" will be held on Thursday August 8th at the Holderness Library.

The Annual Meeting of SLCS is August 17th at 10 am with refreshments starting at 9:30 at the Beij Preserve on East Holderness Road.

Roger was asked if it was possible that interested members accompany the biologist as he is conducting the natural resource inventory as these walks are

very informative. He thought it was a great idea and will see that the information about the walks gets published on the WOPWA website.

NH LAKES – Tom O’Brien, President

Kim Godfrey, WOPWA member, is on the NH LAKES board and urged us to learn more. Tom O’Brien gave an overview of NH LAKES and what they do. Their mission is to keep New Hampshire’s lakes clean and healthy by influencing public policy and educating the public. Lake protection laws are an important part of keeping lakes healthy. NH LAKES helps get bills passed such as: putting restrictions on fishing tackle, cleaning and draining boats requirements and getting money added to invasive species fund. They are presently working on influencing lake legislation about the use of wake boats or ballast boats that work by moving water in and out of tanks that could cause problems as the boats move between bodies of water. NH LAKES continue to educate on the economic value of lakes and the importance of the environment surrounding the lakes. Tom recommends having signs installed around the watershed saying “Entering WOP Watershed” as a visual reminder to the public. He also taught us the concept of “turning your back on the lake” as a way of remembering that what happens above the lake impacts the lake.

Water Quality Report – Nancy Voorhis, Nancy Isikoff, Galen Beach

Nancy Voorhis reported that copies of reports are on the WOPWA website. The water quality volunteers collect water samples at various sites several times a year with the assistance of the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. There are various parameters that are monitored. Phosphorus levels (phosphorus being the most important water quality parameter measured) have been slightly decreasing however there are trouble spots that they will continue to watch. Chlorophyll A was elevated in 2018 in July but overall it is stable. Conductivity and chloride are related to septic systems and road salt. White Oak Pond does not exceed acute levels of chloride established by the state but levels of both chloride and conductivity are considerably high especially at the dump inlet but also evidenced upstream indicating that the dump may not be the source. Levels were also high at the East Holderness road outlet. They did help to educate Holderness road agents about road salt use last year and have not witnessed any change in levels yet but will continue to monitor. The recommendation is that we develop a watershed management plan to help determine what to focus on. The Natural Resource assessment of White Oak Pond Watershed being conducted by SLCS can aid in beginning that process.

Elections/Nominations from the Floor – Margie Bogdanow

Continuing on the Board with their 2nd year of their 1st term are VP Bruce Falby, Janet Cocchiaro, Kevin Frank, Peter Brown and Celia Woolverton.

Resigning from taking the 2nd year of their 1st term are Anne Knight (her home on WOP is on the market for sale) and Joan Vicinus (who previously sold her home on WOP).

Standing for re-election for a 2nd 2-year term are: Margie Bogdanow, President; Gaylen Beach and Steve Cohen. Members standing for re-election to a one-year term are: Dee Hopper, Secretary and Walter Johnson, Treasurer.

Standing for election to a 1st year term as members are: Kim Godfrey, Sara Rothschild and Bennett Evans.

There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the slate as presented.

Liaisons:

Kim Godfrey – NH Lakes Association

Janet Cocchiaro - Squam Lakes Conservation

Tom Hopper - Loon Preservation Committee

Ann Levin – Squam Lakes Science Center

SLA – vacant, please let Margie know if you are interested

Betsy's Park – Steve Woodsum

Steve presented a brief overview of the planned use of the White Oak Motel property as Betsy's Park to commemorate Betsy O'Leary Abelson who died this past winter in a tragic snow mobile accident. While plans are in an early stage, the overall concept is to provide a low-key park for the local community while preserving the beauty and tranquility of White Oak Pond. A total of \$1.5 million will be raised to purchase the property and begin initial improvements. Donations may be made to SLCS with "Betsy's Park" noted on the memo/note line. The membership was supportive and appreciative of the work they are doing.

New Business/Announcements from Membership

Roger Uhler reported that since he is an abutter, he was notified of a Holderness Planning Board Meeting about the Yankee Trail Motel. He attended the meeting and learned that the plan for the motel is to convert it to long term rentals with no changes to the units and no kitchen facilities. The restaurant area would become a common kitchen for all 10 units. The Planning Board stated that since there is no change of use of the property, the motel does not require approval from the town. Many questions and concerns were raised by those present at the meeting about the plan including: no one is to be there to monitor, a septic system built for only seasonal use, a common

kitchen area, etc. It was recommended that WOPWA members stay vigilant, try to learn more and communicate through WOPWA Membership email.

A possible sighting of a small cyanobacteria growth occurred recently and SLA was contacted but it dissipated by the time they arrived. Members were reminded to take a sample and/or a picture if they spot anything unusual and notify SLA. Large areas of bacteria are a concern but small areas are common.

Weed watching also continues to be important. If any changes are noticed, samples should be taken and SLA notified. A question was raised as to the possibility of getting signage for the boat put-in area to remind users of the law that boats should be cleaned prior to entering a body of water.

Wildlife spotted: bear, muskrat, mink, eagle, moose, deer, turkeys, frogs, snapping turtle, bittern and snake. The baby loon was spotted yesterday.

Thanks to Susan Levin for the refreshments.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores C. Hopper
Secretary