

## WOPWA Annual Meeting

### MINUTES

July 25, 2015

#### Holderness Historical Society

(as approved at July 16, 2016 Annual Meeting)

Present: Will & Lois Stratton, Janet and Rich Cocchiaro, Bob Maloney, Will Brown, Anne Levin, Susan Levin, Blake and Anne Ireland, Galen Beach, Roger and Mimzie Uhler, EB James, Kevin Frank, Kathy Weymouth, Sid Lovett, Eileen Lovett, Nancy Lovett Bray, Anne Lovett, Vicky West, Jeannie West, Joan Vicinus, Nancy Voorhis, Betsy Whitmore, Polly Pitt Whiteside, Doug DeCluitt, and a few others.

8:58 Bob Maloney called meeting to order

#### **Walter Johnson, Holderness Town Administrator - A brief summary of the necessary dam repairs:**

Have not been able to close the dam completely due to years of erosion damage (concrete and wood structure). Components starting to fail. Last summer/fall did a draw down and did an inspection. Two challenges: get water low enough to do the work and determine how to refasten the wood components to concrete. Once that is understood, we will know the time necessary to complete the job.

Simple but complicated. Barry Eastman and DES and dam bureau have a plan. Walter Johnson completing the application. Johnson hopes to complete work late summer/early fall.

Culvert problems—state owns half/town owns half (Shepard Hill—Rte 3). Some erosion on the Shepard Hill section. Concrete coding has failed and washed away. Engineer came in and made a study and recommended that we repair the coding. There is a drain that comes into pond—drain from Rte 3 through Rothschild property which has failed. Water running behind rather than in front. State will take responsibility and make repairs.

Erosion from pavement to water—water carrying pollutants off Rte 3. Brought to the state's attention and they will work on that, too. Parking area will be treated with new material to help. Many components to the project. Drainage and culvert fixed.

Repair work best done in Sept. Lowest level of water coming into the pond. Gradual drawdown during the month of Aug. Schedule work in beginning of September.

Walter asked for input from those in attendance.

Bob asked if there is an amount that would be drawn down. Walter (DES) 1-4 inches every couple of weeks.

#### **Opened up to questions:**

Kevin Frank asked what is the total number of inches it would taken down—60 inches was the response from Walter Johnson.

Will Brown spoke referencing a letter from DES from last year (2014). He asked: 'Is it the town's decision or WOPWA's as to the timing of the drawdown?' Pointed out DES recommendations in letter. Walter answered: "It is not our decision. Do not put it off as late as last year."

Rich Cocchiaro asked a question about contractors: The town engages the contractor. Is the contractor already engaged? Walter answered: Town would like to use Barry Eastman who knows the dam the best. As long as the

permitting goes well, it should not be a problem. Still looking for someone to do the concrete work. If all goes well with the water lowering, the contracting should go well. If we do not find the concrete person, we can still go forward and fix the dam.

Bruce Falsby was asked by Bob M to give a legal perspective/summarize his findings. He summarized his written explanation:

Determined from reviewing deeds, NH case dam laws: the owner of dam can control water to dam or down to natural water level. In this case, ownership is divided: Keefe transferred deed to WOPWA. Insurance could not be afforded by WOPWA so the rights were divided with the town (who can obtain insurance) taking ownership of the dam with WOPWA retaining the rights of the water level. WOPWA controls raising and lowering in all non-emergency situations. WOPWA vote is critical. Town owns physical dam-WOPWA needs to work reasonably with the town. August is the environmentally right time. WOPWA controls within reasonable limits. It is charged to protect the pond, to exercise the right to control the pond. If town can do repairs in September, WOPWA should authorize draw down in August.

Rich Cocchiario asked if materials are not ready, what do we do? Walter answered: Reiterated that he wants to use a collaborative approach. Walter Johnson concerned about DES. Paperwork concerns. Certain procedure that we need to do (2 week notice).

Breakdown of costs—state will take care of its costs

Dam repairs—\$10,000.00 (Budgeted and in reserve now)

Concrete assessment in question. (Again fixing components to concrete is key)

If stars do not align, does it make sense not to do it this year? Walter answer: It will get postponed to next year.

Walter Johnson will send in application after this meeting. Minimum impact so hopes State will not take much time evaluating.

New views emerging (ie used to be lakeshore property owners wanted to wait so as not to experience low water levels during summer season; now many are saying they are less concerned about low water levels during summer and more concerned about environmental impacts)—do not wait—it takes awhile to draw down. We can start now.

This the best time to do it. Not an annual event.

Estimated time to do the job after draw down-2-3 days Walter estimates. (2 weeks)

Surface of culvert is failing-should both be done simultaneously? Need to find the person to do this. Two independent projects.

**Kevin Frank made a motion: Move that in accordance with DES guidelines, the drawdown be started so as to ensure that the water level will reliably be low enough so that the dam construction can begin on September 1st. Seconded by [another WOPWA member]—Passed unanimously!**

Suggestions circulated about alerting residents around the pond to the lowering of the water: post in paper this next week; leave notes for each pond resident.

Walter noted the awkward position of the town. Cooperative work between WOPWA and town. Liability and responsibility.

Culvert –major reconstruction project (no price tag yet) No eminent danger of collapse. State will take care of water run off. (Sheet water coming off Rte 3 into pond—new material-impervious material that allows absorption)

Will post information on our web site.

### **Approval of minutes from July 26, 2014 annual meeting**

Motion for approval of Meeting Minutes from the July 26th, 2014 Annual Meeting made by Joan Vicinus and seconded by Kevin Frank. The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Treasurer's Report-Will Stratton**

Started year with \$2401.46

We took in \$1369.78 in dues, interest, and crafts

Our expenses totaled \$1377.44 which is in excess of our revenues by \$7.96

Our expenses include \$300 in dues, \$300 in donations, \$480 in water testing, \$249.74 in brochures, and \$48 administrative fees.

\$2393.50 closing balance

Big donors carry the organization. 38 paying members of WOPWA totalling \$1360.00 as of 6/30

Mary Perry Fund—\$14,844.00 on 6/30/15

Motion made to accept Treasurer's report by Kevin Frank. Seconded by Blake Ireland. Treasurer's report accepted. Passed unanimously

### **Membership and Updates**—Lois Stratton

44 members; 38 have paid dues. Lois reminded people to take membership sheet/renewal forms

Brochures were distributed around area: dam box, motels, library and post office, etc. Barbara Currier?

Add in local papers announcing today's meeting.

Display of art noted –Uhler, Lovett, and Stratton.

Bob solicited help for our committees—three meetings a year—committee responsibilities. We do not fire because we cannot get them. Secretarial and water quality help needed. Thank you to Roger for his 4hsp -4stroke engine gift to WOPWA.

Mary Perry Fund- Bob asked if everyone knows of this fund and gave some history and circulated a history of WOPWA. The Mary Perry Fund raised \$25,000. Thank you to Roger Uhler for his work on the fund's behalf. SLCS check and is tax deductible. Roger made a plug for an information session August 13<sup>th</sup>—generational transfer of property. SLA barn. 9AM

## **Water Quality Report-Galen Beach**

Galen spoke about water quality—looks good considering draw downs. Dump stream high level of conductivity, as well as East Holderness Rd. Most likely caused by road salt, but can also be caused by man made disturbances (ie failing septic systems), or from bedrock. Is consistently high when sampled. Phosphorous levels high at the stone bridge and dump tributary. Nancy suggested that people look at the web site for the official VLAP water sampling report. Testing is consistent. State has specific levels on chloride (230 mg/L chronic; 860 mg/L acute) but not conductivity. Levels compared to other lakes? We are above the state limits for chloride at the dump tributary (257 mg/L). Action to take would be to identify sources-salt distributions in winter which would require resources to be able to do additional water sampling in the order of \$200-\$300.

Bob and the gathered members recognized Galen Beach and Nancy Voorhis for their efforts to collect samples—even rowing to the sampling spot when the boat motor didn't work.

It was suggested that WOPWA consider investigating those two areas that are consistently showing high levels of conductivity and chloride.

It was noted that the water quality group needs a fourth person. Not a big task. Janet Cocchiaro volunteered.

### **Took a few minutes to introduce ourselves to the group, including our address around the pond.**

Panelists Jeannie West and Sid Lovett spoke about their childhood memories of White Oak Pond. The Hurricane of '38 and the use of the pond to store fallen trees for one to two years was shared. A number of members had questions and stories to share about the pond.

Following the panel discussion,

Roger recognized Pierce Beij, a long time neighbor of White Oak Pond. His memorial service is July 26<sup>th</sup> –11 AM.

**SLCS Land Conservation Updates**—Two recent closings in Sandwich and Center Harbor. Moulton Farm and Whitten Woods, a 414-acre property off Highland in Ashland. Amazing perspective of Squam Lakes. Universal trail. In 1816 Reuben Whitten grew enough crops to feed the neighboring area a year after the Mt. Tambora volcanic eruption. Squam Lakes Conservation Society will recognize this man and this property on August 22, 2015.

**Loon Update---** No loon chicks. Not optimistic but not too late for chicks. Make sure the loon raft gets onto the pond each year.

### **Slate Officers and Committee Help**

Bob Maloney-President

Kevin Frank-Vice President

Dee Hopper-secretary beginning 8/1

Will Stratton-Treasurer

Janet Cocchiarro

Marge and Michael Bogdanow

Susan Levin

Marty Hirsch

Roger Uhler

Motion to accept was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. Slate was unanimously approved.

It was noted with sadness that Blake Ireland is leaving the board.

Kathy Weymouth agreed to work with Nancy Voorhis and Ann Knight to build an accurate list of White Oak Pond Watershed property owners to have for larger mailings/non member mailings and to take on membership duties from Lois Stratton.

Algae—more lily pads noted. Web site has write up on lilly pads in the in water quality section.

Bob Maloney proposed that we make contributions in the amount of \$100 to the following organizations: Historical Society, SLA, SLCS. Members approved the donation allocations.

### **Wildlife Sightings**

Large black bear with three cubs reported in area near Sid Lovett's home on Coxboro. Several others said that they had seen signs of the bear near their homes

Woodchuck around the lake

Bob Rothschild sighting

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Kathy Weymouth was thanked for organizing the food for the annual meeting.

**Meeting adjourned by Bob Maloney at 11:05**

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Weymouth, acting secretary