

WOPWA Board Meeting Minutes, August 24, 2008
Home of Anne Knight, White Oak Pond Rd.

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 pm by President Anne Knight.

The minutes of the annual meeting of July 19, 2008 will not be subject to approval until the next annual meeting. However, Board members were asked if they had any corrections or additions. There were none.

The board members introduced themselves. Present were: Will Stratton, Sarah Young, Rich Cocchiaro (not a board member but representing the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund at this meeting), Bob Rothschild, Galen Y. Beach, Janet Cocchiaro, Will Brown, Mimzie Uhler, Adam Levin, Roger Uhler, Anne Ireland, Bob Maloney, Lois Stratton and Anne Knight.

Treasurer's Report: Will Stratton reported that as of today the organization has \$2600 in the bank. About 30 WOPWA members have paid current dues (\$920), with about 20 remaining to be contacted by Will to solicit their membership dues. The total current membership dues are expected to be about \$1300.

Outstanding expenses are membership in the NH Lakes Association of \$300, \$200 to \$250 for water monitoring and the costs associated with the Levin Memorial. \$1250 has been transferred to Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) for the Mary Perry Fund in accordance with the policy established at the annual meeting. It was moved by Anne Ireland and seconded by Janet Cocchiaro that \$300 dues payment be made to NH Lakes Association. The motion passed.

Any excess money that we might have previously contributed to other organizations will now go to the Mary Perry Fund.

Membership issues

Membership forms will be put out on a table at the dam dedication ceremony this afternoon.

Collecting of unpaid dues is the responsibility of the treasurer.

Anne Knight asked for a volunteer to chair a Membership committee. Lois Stratton agreed to take on the job of recruiting new members. There was a discussion of ways to get new members, who to contact and how to contact them. There are three levels of membership so that no one feels they can't afford to join, and that those who can afford more, might be encouraged to join at a higher level.

2009 Annual Meeting –The annual meeting this year was held on the 3rd Saturday in July. The board felt the turnout was about the same as last year, that the time of day, and having the social time at the beginning worked well. Scheduling to avoid conflicts with other association annual meetings such as the SLA is important. The consensus was to hold the annual meeting on the 3rd Saturday in July next year (July 18, 2009).

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund (MPCF)

The Fund's management process was approved at the annual meeting. Bob Maloney & Rich Cocchiaro reported that after annual meeting the issue came up that the SLCS is not able to pay individuals directly; transactions must always be arms-length. The process that the Mary Perry Fund will use therefore will be a notification process. The entry of land into a conservation trust will result in expenses for lawyers, surveyors, etc, being paid directly to the service providers, rather than the landowner being reimbursed personally for the cost of these services. The head of SLCS (currently Roger La Rochelle) will issue a check to an appropriate service provider. No tax issue will result and the funds will not pass through WOPWA . Kevin Frank is working on the wording of the document laying out the process. It can be updated at a later time.

Soliciting support for the Fund beyond the seed money already transferred from the WOPWA general fund is important. We need to make the public aware of the Fund and to solicit monetary support. Kevin agreed to head up the marketing effort with the help of Rich C and Bob M.. The plan is to ask individuals in the organization and the watershed and beyond for a 5 year commitment for donations. The breadth of the target audience is yet to be determined. Suggestions were offered, such as:

- A tie-in with the membership drive.

- Vendors that SLCS has contacts with

- People who use the pond for recreation, ie, kayakers

- Members of the Squam Lakes Chamber of Commerce (@ 200 members)

- People in the Boston area who are friends of the Perry family

Janet C. recommended referring the determination of potential donors to the committee to decide and that an appropriate personal letter signed by Kevin would have appeal.

Janet Cocchiaro moved and Bob Rothschild seconded a motion that \$200 be allotted for mailings and see what level of response is generated. The motion passed.

The consensus of the group was that the initial solicitation be done in late summer or early fall, with a follow-up letter in early November. It was also decided to solicit again when the notification of the next annual meeting is mailed.

Bob Maloney will try to get out the first letter by October 12.

The 3 person committee is felt to be large enough.

The spring focus will be coordinated with Lois as she solicits members for WOPWA.

Naming of the Dam ceremony – Sid Lovett will be the MC

Anne Knight thanked Mimzie & Roger Uhler and Sara Rothschild for working with her to make sure this event could take place this afternoon. The stone has been placed at the site by Scott King at no charge. A copy of the plaque (to be made by Engraving, Awards, Gifts, in Laconia) was passed around. The actual cast plaque will take about a month. The question of whether Anne Levin has been slighted in this was raised. The consensus was that Anne and George are a team and would regard the plaque as a tribute to both.

The Holderness Selectmen have agreed to contribute half of the expense up to \$400. The planting around the stone will be done by Karen Porazzo - the plants that are there now was done by persons unknown. Janet suggested that we let members know that extra money toward the plaque would be welcome. Will Stratton thinks the treasury has enough funds to pay for it. We should not have surplus and any extra funds could go to the Perry fund, but instead could be put into the plaque. Bob Maloney moved that we spend whatever is necessary on this project. The motion was seconded by Bob Rothschild and passed.

Lois Stratton and Joan Vicinus were thanked for agreeing to arrange for refreshments. Members of the board will step up to direct traffic if necessary. Barry Eastman, as the “keeper of the dam” was invited and will attend. George Levin would like to say a few words.

Activities & files at Holderness Historical Society (HHS) – Will Brown, Galen Beach and Kevin Frank have been working on what files should be scanned and scanning them. Most of what has been or will be scanned will be Minutes, original letter from Mary Perry proposing an organization, legal papers from 1971 to the present and other historical data and information that Galen thought would be of interest. It was agreed that we should scan tax returns as well. Material that may be in other files will generally not be scanned, such as water quality reports which are on file at DES. Some files have been transferred to CD’s and given to Nancy Voorhis for the website. The committee was thanked for its work. Anne Knight has put documents from the president's files in a filing cabinet at the HHS. While the HHS has limited hours, we have the names of people who can give us access if needed.

WOPWA Database – Anne Ireland will get started on the database by Oct 1 and will have it available for the Oct 12 deadline for solicitation for the MPCF. The latest list we have is the one updated by Ted Van Sant several years ago and many changes have taken place since then. Do we need two lists – members of WOPWA and people in the watershed?

These can be done as one list with an indicator that allows the lists to be accessed or printed separately. Janet requested that a list of WOPWA members to be distributed but not in spreadsheet form. We would like a membership list by the end of October.

Water Quality Update Galen Beach reported that testing will be done again this Wednesday, Aug 27. It was noted that there are some large blooms of plankton, a whitish algae that looks like jellyfish. It is worrisome and we need to keep an eye on it. Galen has only seen it in the swamp before now. White Oak is one of few ponds in NH with actual jellyfish. The beaver dam has had leakage and organic matter is coming up from the lake bottom with the warmer weather of late summer. We all need to be vigilant in checking the shoreline. Cyanobloom is more cloudy-looking and may look like blue green paint chips.

Website Update There is no update on the website. The name change hasn’t occurred yet. Nancy Voorhis will get to it next week after school starts. Announcement of the Dam Naming Dedication and celebration has been posted. Photos can be posted on the

website by sending them there. We have achieved some cooperation between the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) and WOPWA on the use of the camera with built-in GPS with which SLA has documented the shoreline of White Oak Pond. The wetlands survey seems to be still pending. The photographs will be kept at SLA.

Other Business Bob Rothschild reported that someone has been taking out trees and brush on the Cocchiaro and Rothschild properties, presumably to facilitate fishing from the shore in those properties nearest the dam. The path along the edge of the pond in that area is not supposed to be there and it will soon be posted as private property with no trespassing allowed. We were asked to be aware of activity along that edge of the pond. This is especially important as more and more people come onto the pond for recreation.

The meeting was adjourned after a move by Will Stratton, seconded by Lois Stratton. The motion passed unanimously.

Time of adjournment: 2:45 PM