

Meeting of the Board of Directors of the
White Oak Pond Watershed Association

August 20, 1977

Note: Members will kindly offer corrections of these minutes.

A meeting of the Board of White Oak Pond Watershed Association was held at the Perry's house on August 20, 1977. A second meeting for follow-up of business was held about a week later.

Present at the first meeting were: our new Board member serving for two years: Leonard Hunt as well as Officers and Board members: Peter Blos, Blake Ireland, Mary Perry, Bill Perry, Paul Whitman. Also invited and attending were Ann Ireland, Tink Taylor, Dr. Lawrence Staples.

The second meeting, was attended by: our new Board member, Dr. Harold Hyde, and Mrs. Hyde, Richardson Blair, Ann Ireland, Bill and Mary Perry, Paul Whitman and Harold Taylor, neighbor.

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The Board members were grieved to hear, some weeks later, of the loss of our friend in the Association, past Vice President and present Board member Romain Hartwig.

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The Board was interested in pursuing the matter of the status of the wetlands of White Oak, in particular, Lamb Swamp. Dr. Staples was invited to share with the Board his current observations and information relating to our concern about the possible threats to swamp land by the dump and out-of-state speculators. He spoke also of safeguards in official State bodies, or commissions or committees, local and regional.

Paul Whitman, President, presided. It was agreed to contribute \$50 to the Loon Preservation Committee. Also, \$10 was voted for donation to Squam Lakes Science Center in view of their hospitality to the Association.

There was a discussion of the work of a Membership Committee and the ways in which we might involve new members. (Nominating Committee and Membership Committee are now the same Committee.)

Bill Perry raised the observation that there is no definition in the By-Laws about who is a member: is a family a member and- how many votes does a member have?

Tink Taylor suggested it might be appropriate for him to be a Friend of the Association and that this category might include other Friends.

A discussion followed regarding RSA 486, limiting horsepower of boats on the Pond: there were questions about posting of signs to alert the public to the restriction on motors. It was decided to write Mr. John Bridges, Director Division of Safety Services, asking his advice about how to proceed now that the Law is effective, and to ask what constitutes a "new motor."

It was suggested that we get a list of motors registered on the lake and send it to Mr. Bridges and that we get a copy of the Amendment to HB 242. Notification of the Law should be sent to: Registrar of Deeds in Woodsville, Local Realtors, Marinas, Squam Lakes Board of Trade and to newspapers.

There was discussion about the Dump: Tink expressed some concern that the trash containers provided on the Dump site would be insufficient

for this area, particularly during summer months when non-resident taxpayers need space for waste disposal.

Discussion of preservation of wetlands followed. Tink said that wetlands are in the public interest: under Chapter RSA 483A a Board has been established under the Water Resources Board to act to protect wetlands. If there is threat to wetlands of a community a Special Board is set up for a Hearing in the community. However, Dredge and Fill has been permitted despite local opposition. House Bill 690 was submitted by Tink last year (Session 1976-77). The bill went through the House Committee: 100 persons appeared in favor of the bill. Forty-five persons appeared before the Senate Committee. The measure was, however, tabled: supporters hoped to get it back in the next legislative session 1977-78.

The question was raised about the definition of a swamp. Tink said that RSA 483A defines in detail what a marsh is.

In terms of preservation of our wetlands: it was suggested that the first is to have a professional biologist survey the swamp so that we can quickly identify change. The Center Harbor Associated teamed with the Town to hire a Biologist. It is important to come up with a definition of a swamp. It is also important to review the Soils map of the Town.

Bill Perry asked whether this is a matter the Water Quality Committee should address. Tink suggested we obtain a copy of the Statute RSA 483A. Tink also suggested we have a Task Force on the protection of water and wetlands rather than just a Committee.

It was agreed we need to find out the cost of a professional survey: we need to pull together the information available- Soil maps and other information.

It was suggested that Tudor Richards of the Audubon Society might come up to talk with us. Dr. Staples said that representatives from the Soil Conservation office are making surveys of the area, including White Oak Pond.

It was agreed that the Secretary was authorized to ask the Treasurer to appropriate \$100 for signs to be posted on Mrs. Keith's land, at Miss Main's beach and at the Marinas if the State would not pay for the signs.

The question of a professional survey of wetlands of the Pond was tabled until the next meeting.

At the second meeting Dr. Hyde proposed we talk to Dr. Robert Frey or Lawrence Cushman who directed the sampling of water around Squam Lake to determine pollution.

A Quorum was declared and it was voted to ask Dr. Robert Frey of Plymouth State College for help in delineating swamp and wetlands.

Dr. Hyde made reference to Lakes Region Planning Commission asking who funds it and whether it is a source of funding and support for a wetlands survey.

Ann Ireland said she would call about this. She also suggested we find out about Audubon Society legislation in N. H. and other states regarding preservation of our wetlands, particularly the swamp.