

## WHITE OAK POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WOPWA) SOME HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Barring unforeseen unearthing of earlier records, the following documents are some of the earliest recordings of minutes of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association's meetings of the Board of Directors and the Annual meeting, including letters written by Mary Perry (the Association's founder) for the purpose of promoting conservation of fragile areas of the Pond.

The main issues seem little changed over the decades: concern about pilot training flights over the lake; dam rights, operations and draw-downs; wetlands and wildlife preservation through the enlistment of conservation organizations and land trusts in limiting development; preservation of water quality and weed-watching; unification of area residents; fostering cultural pursuits, and so forth.

Also note the reference to the phenomenon of the 'jellyfish-like creatures' which continue to make sporadic appearances in the Pond's waters and which are, in fact, freshwater jellyfish. The most recent appearance was in August, 2006.

# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

FEBRUARY 29, 1984

To: Members of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association  
From: Bill Perry, Secretary

Greetings:

Here are the Minutes of the eleventh Annual Meeting, September 3, 1983. You will see that it was a cheerful meeting and accomplished such work as was required in a quiet year.

Since that meeting on September 3, 1983, your enlarged Board of Directors met as the By-Laws prescribe. Of the thirteen Officers and Directors, all but two were able to attend. Tink Taylor joined on invitation, to advise, he having spent the Annual Meeting becalmed on Big Squam.

Let me brief you. Tink gave his report on the year's experience with the Yankee II MOA overflights of military planes. The level of activity was lower than feared; at a hearing held this summer at Linwood High School, few citizens attended, and only two complaints were presented.

The rest of the Board's meeting centered on issues raised by the prospect of sale of the 90-acre Kemple holdings. Since Roger Gage, Chairman of the Holderness Board of Selectmen, had, on our request, personally procured a copy of the Assessor's map of the whole watershed for the Association's considerations, the discussions could be broad. The Board reviewed the experience of others in balancing wise development and conservation and listed the several alternative styles available.

The sense of the meeting, as it emerged, was to explore with members and others, person to person, about several options strengthening the integrity of the wetlands. Further thought could then resume in the light of such first steps.

It was voted that the meeting should convey the thanks of the Association to Chairman Gage. Similarly, the President was to write to retired Chairman Don Dana in appreciation of his years of care.

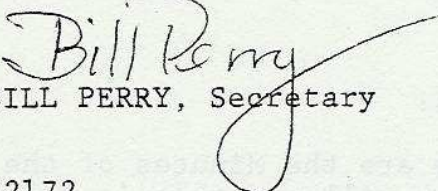
White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Page 2

February 29, 1984

I attach for your reference the names of your Officers, Directors, and Committee Chairman. Any of these will be glad to respond to your interests.

Cordially,



The image shows a handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Bill Perry". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "BILL PERRY, Secretary".

BILL PERRY, Secretary

Address: 93 Garfield Street  
Watertown, Massachusetts 02172

Phone: (617) 926-2351

# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

March 2, 1984

MINUTES OF THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 3, 1983

AT SQUAM LAKES SCIENCE CENTER

President Paul Whitman called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Over twenty-five persons were on hand.

Secretary Bill Perry briefly reviewed the Minutes of the last meeting which had been circulated by mail. These minutes were accepted

President Whitman reported that the Wetlands Inventory authorized by the Town in 1978 had been accepted by ballot vote at Town Meeting March 1982. Though the inventory had been accepted by voiced vote in 1981, there were procedural errors requiring that the vote be taken again in 1982. In adherence to the required procedure, public hearings were held by the Holderness Planning Board; the Board voted unanimously to put the question before the voters for ballot vote; the Inventory was accepted in the Town Meeting.

Bill Perry then presented the Secretary's report: On November 30, 1982 he had mailed to all members the Minutes of the Board, Minutes of the Annual Meeting, Secretary's and Treasurer's reports, copy of a letter from President Whitman to Congressman Judd Gregg in Washington, D.C. written in behalf of WOPWA's Board of Directors and members sharing with Mr. Gregg our serious concern about the Yankee II-MOA operation (training flights on weekends over the lakes region) and their possible adverse effects on the natural and human environment of the Squam Lakes district. Copies of this letter were sent to the N.H. Congressional delegation in Concord.

In reference to this matter, Vice President Harold Taylor asked if there was a report on the present status of the Yankee-MOA. The Secretary assured Mr. Taylor that this report would be given by Tink Taylor with the report from the Conservation Committee. (Unfortunately, it turned out that Tink Taylor was unable to attend, being becalmed on Squam Lake.) Tink did report on MOA at the Board meeting on October 8, a summary of which is included in this mailing.

Continuing his report, the Secretary noted that there were four new members: Dr. and Mrs. Richard Erbe, Patricia Woodward, and Mimi Bloom; this brings the WOPWA membership to fifty-three.

Mr. Perry reported that, at the instruction of the Board, in 1982 he had also mailed the Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the

Board, including the letter regarding MOA to thirty-seven neighbors inviting them to join the organization. These included residents in the watershed, particularly neighbors on East Holderness Road and also various Town officials. The intent was to acquaint them with our interests and efforts in behalf of the community.

Mr. Perry reported that the Board of Directors had met on Wednesday, August 31, 1983, and reviewed reports of committees, such reports to be presented at the Annual Meeting. At this meeting of the Board, Dick Blair had reported on his experience in the legislature this past year and on legislation proposed or pending that might relate to our interests. One such matter concerned limitations of rights of health inspectors to inspect converted residences re: the adequacy of their septic systems. The resulting legislation did not, in Mr. Blair's opinion, allow inspectors sufficient access.

The Secretary's Report being accepted, the President called for the Report of the Treasurer. Treasurer Reardon presented her report showing that members' generous contributions had kept the Association in good health (see attached report). The Treasurer's Report was gratefully accepted. Blake Ireland agreed to complete the tax returns as he has in the past.

The President then called for reports of Committees.

#### Conservation

For Roger Wicksman, it was reported that flocks of loons have been seen on the Pond, some appearing to be visitors. It is reported that "bachelor loons" visit, resulting in displays of "loon water skiing". Ellie Buie, companion to Miss Alice Main, noted that she had watched three baby loons with parents this summer.

#### Water Level

Paul Whitman noted that, after seventeen weekends of rain, the dam had handled the overflow. Only once last fall was the spillway opened.

He observed that much water flows into the Pond from the area around, remarking especially on the water flowing from the hill above Lois Murphy's land, and that of John Hanlon. The latter concurred, attesting that much of this water flows through his cellar. The source of this water is not clear, since it comes from high levels even in dry periods.

### Water Quality

Bill Perry reported for Roger Wicksman: Roger and Bill separately have gathered parts of an underwater weed-spreading profusely like a thick carpet between the Perrys' Island and Camilla Kemple's land-near the spot where the ground fire occurred a year ago. The Science Center Staff had determined that the plant was not milfoil. Roger and the Perrys thought it seemed to be a form of bladderwort or relative of same.

Dr. Friedberg reported finding tiny jellyfish-like creatures all along the shore. Others thought these were probably tadpoles in an early state of development.

In the naturalistic spirit of the meeting, President Whitman interpolated a delightful account of bringing to the Science Center two toads from his farm who had appeared for weeks to be physically inseparable, even by force. The biologists had adjudged them to be indeed "Siamese" until, when accidentally dropped on the floor, they did separate momentarily. Love had been dismissed as a cause for the union in view of its duration; however, subsequent research has revealed that love it was. In any case, the happy pair were again restored to the President's farm united.

The report of the Water Quality Committee was thereby accepted, the quality being adjudged good.

### Nominating Committee

Sidney Lovett reported to the Board of Directors that nominees for a first term of two years are listed below. These members are proposed for election in an "odd" year to insure rotation as required in the By-laws.

Woolsey Conover  
John Hanlon  
George Levin  
Edward Stevenson

It was moved that the Secretary cast one ballot for the four nominees.

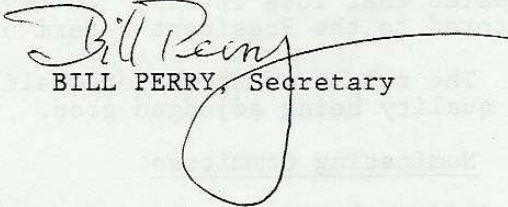
The motion was seconded and VOTED.

The meeting now turned to a motion picture made by member Andy Young in the forest region of eastern Brazil for the World Wildlife Fund. In Andy's absence his sister Sara presented. The film, The Cry of the Muriqui, documented the impact of the Muriqui, a seriously endangered species of monkey. In its excellence and dramatic power, the film demonstrated the force of such a medium in communicating awareness and concern for conservation. In Brazil the film has assisted in the initiation of public and private action aimed at preservation of the remaining habitat.

Members expressed appreciation to the Youngs for the loan of so valuable a film and to the Science Center for the use of the sound projector and the room. (Note: the Association currently contributes \$50.00 annually to the Science Center and has received a warm letter of thanks from its Director, Richard Ashley--see attached.)

The formal meeting was then adjourned in favor of wine, cheese, and greetings.

Respectfully submitted,

  
BILL PERRY, Secretary

WHITE OAK POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION, INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

August 1, 1982 -- July 31, 1983

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Balance on hand August 1, 1982 \$1,015.79

Contributions

4 at \$ 1.00	4.00	
16 at 5.00	80.00	
13 at 10.00	130.00	
8 at 25.00	200.00	
1 at 30.00	30.00	
1 at 50.00	50.00	494.00

Interest received on funds on deposit with  
Provident Institution for Savings, Boston,  
Mass. - August, 1982 through July, 1983 64.48

Total received \$1,574.27

Expenses

Dr. Harold Taylor - reimbursement expenses	20.08	
Squam Lakes Science Center - group membership	50.00	
Rita Reardon - reimbursement expenses	10.95	
Internal Revenue Service - taxes	20.43	
William G. Perry, Jr. - reimbursement for expenses	292.57	394.03

Balance on hand \$1,180.24



# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

March 2, 1984

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AUGUST 31, 1983

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 p.m. at the Perrys' house on Coxboro Road. In attendance were: President Paul Whitman, Vice President Harold Taylor, Secretary William Perry, Harold Hyde, Roger Wicksman, Sidney Lovett, Richardson Blair at the invitation of the President, and Mary Perry.

The Secretary read his report to be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Sidney Lovett, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave his report:

For a first term of two years, the following members had agreed to nomination for the Board of Directors:

Woolsey Conover  
John Hanlon  
George Levin  
Edward Stevenson

This slate would be submitted at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 2, 1983. If accepted, it would enlarge the Board and provide for rotation in accord with the By-laws.

President Whitman had asked Richardson Blair, Holderness Representative to the State Legislature, to attend the meeting to inform the Board of any legislative matters that might relate to our concerns. Mr. Blair described efforts to regulate the rafting of boats in coves on Winnepesaukee. After hearings, local and state police and safety officers were urged to get together to regulate rafting. Mr. Blair observed that local police, state police, and safety officers seldom talk to each other and expressed disappointment with safety policing on the lakes and the enforcement of speed limits.

Mr. Blair then reported efforts to pass legislation enabling the enforcement of the examination of septic systems, now under state jurisdiction. Paul Whitman pointed out that local townships may have ordinances that enforce inspection of new systems. However, there are instances where no inspection occurs. Paul points out that there is a need to have uniform regulations for state and local procedures.


White Oak Pond Watershed Association  
Meeting of the Board of Directors--August 31, 1983  
Page 2

Harold Hyde voiced a concern regarding the condition of the road known as College Road which joins Shepard Hill Road and Route 3. Mr. Whitman noted that road repair budgets are allocated at Town Meeting for spring and fall work. It was the sense of the meeting that it would be appropriate for Mr. Hyde to approach the Selectmen, as resident, to ask if attention could be given to improving the road. Subsequently, the Association could consider the appropriateness of action regarding road conditions in the watershed.

At the instance of Mr. Hyde, the Board took under consideration the timing of annual meetings in relation to the convenience of our several constituencies.

The Board agreed to agree about the time of its next gathering at the end of the Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned about 6:10 p.m.

WGP sec  


# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

March 2, 1984

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OCTOBER 8, 1983

The meeting was held at the Perrys' house on Coxboro Road.  
Present at the meeting were:

John Hanlon  
Harold Hyde  
George Levin  
Richard Lovett  
William Perry, Secretary  
Mary Perry  
Richard Peterson  
Bertram Pulsifer  
Edward Stevenson  
Harold Taylor, Vice President  
Roger Wicksman  
Paul Whitman, President

Woolsey Conover and Rita Reardon, Treasurer, could not attend.  
Tink Taylor attended the meeting by invitation of the Board.

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

The Secretary read the Minutes of the Annual Meeting.  
Corrections from the floor were incorporated.

Tink Taylor, who had been unable to attend the Annual Meeting, was asked to report any recent information regarding flights of the A-10 planes over the lakes region area which had been proposed as a Military Operations Area (MOA) in 1982 by the U.S. Department of the Air Force-the operation known as Yankee II. He reported that at a meeting at Linwood High School recently only two complaints about the flights were recorded.

Paul Whitman reminded us that letters were sent to the New Hampshire Congressional delegation in 1982 expressing concern about these flights and asking that administrators consider the environmental impact of such flights in this region: the letter, composed by Harold Taylor at the request of the President, was sent to Representative Judd Gregg, Senators Gordon Humphrey, and Warren Rudman, with copies to FAA Regional Administrator, Mr. Gordon Bunker, New Hampshire Aeronautics. In June 1981 Donald Dana, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen of Holderness, had written Honorable Raymond S. Burton of the Executive Council in Concord stating unanimous opposition of the Selectmen to the proposal.

In reference to the film, Cry of the Muriqui, shown at the Annual Meeting and filmed for the World Wildlife Fund by our neighbor on the lake, Andy Young, Mr. Pulsifer moved that the Secretary write Andy to thank him for lending us the film.

The question of ownership of flowage rights at the dam on Route 3 was raised by Harold Taylor and Paul Whitman. Rowland Keith, owner of the dam, had rebuilt it two years ago at his expense. Tink Taylor was asked to share his observations and knowledge regarding flowage and related rights: Tink reminded us that he had encouraged us some years ago to ask Mr. Keith for flowage rights. The Board considered the advantages and liabilities involved in obtaining flowage rights. The Board felt that the Pond was secure in Mr. Keith's ownership but wondered, should ownership change, how vulnerable the Pond might be, e.g., could an owner lower the level of the water for his individual plans re use of land presently submerged?

Paul Whitman observed that if owners have improved their shoreland-put in a wharf, e.g.,-they have "Riparian rights"- a dam owner cannot infringe on an owner's right to use and maintain the wharf. Tink Taylor added the issues of "Littoral rights"-the rights of shore front owners.

Bill Perry reminded the Board of recent newspaper articles regarding legislation making it possible for any person to seize a dam for use for generating power. Paul Whitman observed that he understood these provisions apply to use of a dam on lands that are fallow but that limits are set to more extensive use that would change the land.

A brief discussion followed regarding the feasibility of the WOPWA Board's taking initiative to contact Rowland Keith regarding these matters. It was agreed that Sidney Lovett might approach Mr. Keith personally keeping in mind that the Association stands ready to cooperate and would be interested in an option on the dam if the property were ever to be sold.

Bill Perry asked Mr. Pulsifer if he would give us a brief review of his experience in the situation that developed on Hawkins Pond. Mr. Pulsifer said that the developer wanted to draw down the water to expose land which he proposed to develop. Paul Whitman added that the developer said he owned land between the dam and the other side of the Pond. Mr. Pulsifer observed

that the developer had built a causeway to the dam and that the Pond had to be surveyed to prove it was a Great Pond and therefore owned by the State.

Paul Whitman raised the question of how the White Oak dam was first acquired. The group agreed that, in pursuit of this question, we should research the deeds at the county seat. Harold Taylor suggested the Association follow up this discussion with a short historical account of the status of dams in general and a special history of the dam on White Oak Pond. He then made a motion proposing that the President, with the help of the Secretary, take initiative to provide (1) a short history of the dam and (2) the legal status of the rights of private individuals or corporations in relation to a dam. Mr. Perry asked for at least two years to do this study.

The motion was seconded and, with some laughter, VOTED.

Tink Taylor noted that a copy of a publication on the legal status of dams could be obtained from Water Resources Board, 37 Pleasant Street, Concord, New Hampshire. Tink observed that our priority is to seek protection for wetlands, to obtain conservation easements, for example. Lively discussion ensued regarding the protection of Lamb Swamp and of the wild character of the Pond environs.

This raised the problem of the vulnerability of Lamb Swamp in the light of the proposed sale of Camilla Kemple's land. In this regard Mary Perry reported on a visit to the Pond property by President Whitman in company with the Perrys. Tink Taylor had referred us to a Mr. John Ripley Forbes, President of the Lakes Region Conservation Trust which has raised funds for conservation land. Mr. Forbes and several of his colleagues came to see the land and to talk with Mr. Whitman and the Perrys, exploring whether their organization might help raise funds to purchase the property. Mr. Forbes said that such funding was not possible now: the Trust had recently extended itself to save some property on Winnepesaukee that was threatened by developers. Mr. Forbes did suggest that the Association write Camilla Kemple asking her to cede underwater land which abuts the Swamp to the Trust. He had further suggested that others in the Watershed could be asked for gifts of small pieces of wetland, thus starting what might become in time a broader funding for land purchase.

Board members raised the problem of the inaccessibility of such land. At present the rights of way to Ms. Kemple's property are restricted to ten feet in width of road, yet abutters might sell additional footage to widen the road.

Paul Whitman and Edward Stevenson observed that, if Ms. Kemple did give such land, it would set a precedent for others. George Levin commented on the tax advantage to Miss Kemple if she were to donate land at the time of sale. Board members asked Tink if the Conservation Commission has a legal right to accept land; Tink answered that the Holderness Conservation Commission is a charitable organization and such a gift would warrant tax deduction.

Discussion then turned to the critical value of Miss Alice Main's land in guarding the shore and wetlands. The Board recognized Miss Main's longstanding interest in conservation of the Pond. It was moved and VOTED that Mary Perry should write to Miss Kemple and Miss Main exploring the possibility of a gift of a piece of wetland dedicated in her name, letting each know we are approaching others and that such land would be put into conservation agreements.

Discussion followed regarding possible donation of land to tax-exempt organizations such as Society for Protection of New Hampshire Forests, Audubon Society, etc. Tink offered a list of conservation groups as alternatives serving as recipients of land: these are: New Hampshire or National Audubon Society, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, New England Forestry Foundation, Holderness Conservation Commission, Lakes Region Conservation Trust, Squam Lakes Association, Ducks Unlimited, New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game. Tink commented that some such organizations refuse gifts of land which they cannot maintain.

Richard Lovett raised the question of whether this association was a charitable organization. He was informed that the Board, under the leadership of Blake Ireland, then President of the organization, had pursued this matter with the IRS without success. Tink noted that the State puts up a few hurdles, and that associations of this nature are often seen as protecting their own lands. An organization's purposes and By-laws are very carefully reviewed by the State. SLA is tax-exempt as a "charitable organization" but, when it dropped some of its projects, e.g., the Junior SLA, it was once again investigated so that the SLA reinstated such projects.

White Oak Pond Watershed Association  
Meeting of the Board of Directors--October 8, 1983  
Page 5

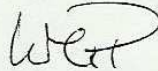
Harold Hyde reminded us that, in a discussion in the Board four or five years ago, it was decided that we would not continue to seek charitable status since that would limit any political activity. As we are now constituted, we would be free to lobby.

Bill Perry reminded members that we had asked the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Roger Gage, for a copy of the tax map that we might be clear about boundaries in our discussions within the organization. He had been immediately helpful and personally undertook to have copies made. He was recompensed only for mileage and cost of copying. The Secretary was asked to write Mr. Gage expressing the appreciation of the Board for his care in making available at short notice the town maps of the Watershed of White Oak Pond.

It was suggested that the President and Vice President write to Donald Dana, now retired as Chairman of the Selectmen, extending our good wishes and our thanks for all his support and cooperation in our endeavors.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



BILL PERRY, Secretary

# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

November 24, 1983

Miss Alice Main  
5100 Sharon Road  
Charlotte, N. C. 28210

Dear Alice,

I am writing you now at the request of the Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association.

They asked me first to offer their recognition as individuals and as a group of your deep and long-lasting investment in maintaining the lovely wildness of the land that borders the Pond. Within your stewardship the lake has been a magically lovely place for those of us who have lived near or around the Pond. We are indebted to you for the wisdom of your guardianship of the lake and land and for generosity in keeping open access to the lake for use of summer neighbors and local people.

They asked me also to place before you a proposal that might help to restrain unwise land developments around White Oak Pond and its watershed.

Let me explain first the background in our thinking and our discussion of the proposal we wish to set before you:

As you know, the proposed sale of Camilla Kemple's land has aroused some concern among neighbors: first, her land abuts Lamb Swamp. Depending on the buyer's intent - whether to subdivide the land for various uses, for example - the major wetland in the area is vulnerable.

In our concern, during the past year several of us have begun to investigate the possibility that one or more of the conservation groups (Audubon Society, Conservancy Fund, or others) might be willing to participate in a fund to buy Camilla's land to be kept as wild land - a kind of impossible dream, but worth trying.

In this pursuit Tink Taylor suggested we contact a man named John Ripley Forbes who is Director of a group called Lakes Region Conservancy Trust. Tink noted that Mr. Forbes and his associates have, in the past, raised large sums to protect land in the area against development.



We invited Mr. Forbes to visit the Pond one day late in September. He came with several of his associates. Among the group we met Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Kirkwood; Grace Kirkwood is Trustee in charge of properties. The Kirkwoods said they remember you and Charles warmly from Winchester where they formerly lived; they are now retired to North Sandwich.

Bill took some of the group across the lake in our boat; Paul Whitman drove a few of us along Camilla's Right of Way to her house where we reviewed matters of boundaries, abutters, the wetlands and so on.

Mr. Forbes told us that his group cannot fund any land at present: recently they acquired with funds an island in Winnepesaukee threatened by a developer and thus they have no resources now for helping purchase land.

However, Mr. Forbes and his associates found the Pond an impressively lovely place and natural resource and strongly urged us to take some steps toward conserving the land now, with a possible view to seeking funds in future.

He proposed that we ask Camilla to give to his Trust the land that abuts the Lamb Swamp and which is under water. Such a gift would protect the Swamp against encroachment on that boundary as well as serving to demonstrate interest of Camilla in conservation of the wetlands.

Mr. Forbes urged us also to approach other neighboring landowners in this regard.

After careful consideration of Mr. Forbes' suggestion, the WOPWA Board unanimously voted that a letter be sent you written by me. They ask you to consider giving to the Lakes Region Conservancy Trust (or other Conservation agency) a piece of your land - preferably wetland as a testimony of interest in preserving wetlands and shores of the Pond. It was felt that this gift could generate gifts of land or money from other persons in the lakes region, and possibly offer us a basis on which to solicit funds for conservation land.

The Board recognized, also, that you will probably want to consult Charles about such a proposal; we are therefore sending a copy of this letter to him.

We hope that, whatever you and Charles may decide in this regard, you will be aware that our efforts to preserve

the unique loveliness of the Pond for other generations, and recognition of your efforts in that regard, have motivated our discussion and this approach to you. At another time we might have been able to 'chip in' as a group and purchase Camilla's land. Now, as you know, such purchase is beyond our combined means.

We all hope that you have maintained your physical gains of last summer, and send warm greetings with hope to see you in Spring.

Cordially,



Mary Perry, for the Board

Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association

1983

Paul Whitman  
Harold Taylor  
William Perry  
Rita Reardon

President  
Vice Presodemt  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Board Members

Woolsey Conover  
John Hanlon  
Harold Hyde  
George Levin  
Richard Lovett

Richard Peterson  
Bertram Pulsifer  
Roger Wicksman  
Edward Stevenson

# White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Incorporated

Holderness, New Hampshire 03245

November 20, 1983

Dr. Camilla Kemple  
20 West 86 Street  
New York, N. Y. 10024

Dear Camilla,

I have been asked to write you in behalf of the Board of Directors of the White Oak Pond Watershed Association. The Board met on October 8th; as you see by the names recorded below, the group now numbers 13 with 4 new members elected at the Annual Meeting of September 2nd.

The Board members have been informed of your decision to sell your land and all are unhappy to lose neighbors who have been deeply invested in WOPWA and in maintaining the wild loveliness of the Pond and its watershed.

First, then, let me give you the background events which are a context for the proposal we now put before you:

Previous to the Board meeting, having talked with several members, I contacted a man named John Ripley Forbes; Tink Taylor had told me of Mr. Forbes' longtime interest and work in raising funds for conservation land trusts. His organization is known as Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Mr. Forbes and several of his executive staff visited the Pond with us in late September; Bill took them by boat to your shore and Paul Whitman was helpful in indicating boundaries, etc.

Because of recent commitments of funds, the land trust organization cannot at this time proffer funds to purchase more conservation property; nor did they feel that their organization could take the initiative in raising funds for such purchase.

Mr. Forbes did, however, recognize the unique loveliness of your land and shore and strongly urged that we take some steps to initiate a policy of conservation that could grow with cooperation of landowners on or around the Pond.

As you know, Camilla, your land and some of your

neighbors' lands abut Lamb Swamp, the prime wetland in this area for the breeding and protection of wild life. You don't need any introduction to the Swamp nor a homily on its value in the ecology as well as the beauty of the Pond. The preservation of the Swamp and its protection would be an important objective in any fund-raising effort.

From Mr. Forbes' broad experience in fund-raising for such conservation lands he urged that we write you to present a suggestion as follows:

Would you consider giving to the Lakes Region Conservation Trust that land owned by you which is under water and bordering the Swamp? Such a gift could offer some tax advantage upon sale of the land and would not substantially alter or limit the value of that land which is usable. Essentially, the gift would help protect the major wetland in our area. Mr. Forbes offered to pay for the surveying of any wetlands given to the trust. Mr. Forbes suggested, also, that we approach other neighbors with a similar proposal.

With this in mind the Board the Board directed me to write Miss Alice Main also to convey the suggestion for a gift of a piece of her land to the conservation trust.

In the experience of Mr. Forbes and his colleagues, such land gifts not only act to guard the wetlands but also, when the gifts are made known and are recognized by others in the community who are conservation-minded, such gifts often stimulate wider interests in donations of money that might fund purchase of land in the area.

We write in the hope that you will see this letter as an expression of the deep appreciation of the Pond and its environs that we share with you and Sam.

We realize, too, that you wish to sell as soon as you can and want to make clear that the suggestion offered for your consideration is not a request to delay or limit such effort by you or your Real Estate Agent.

We are grateful for your consideration of this proposal. I'll enclose a self-addressed envelope so that you can write me when you feel you have given due consideration to the matter. If you wish to comment on factors that we have not taken into account - won't you let us know. Mr. Forbes lives in Atlanta but has an office in Connecticut as well as in Meredith, N. H., and is happy to talk with you if this would seem helpful.

Very sincerely,  
*Mary H. Perry*  
Mary Perry for the Board