

This letter outlines the Conservation Goals and Objectives for the White Oak Pond Watershed Association (WOPWA). Some of the points have been instituted and others remain ongoing concerns. Sent from Herb Brown to Janet Cocchiaro in June of 2000, the letter is a fine example of the use of that ancient instrument, the typewriter.

Trans -> Janet  
6/80

August, 1989

TO: W.O.P.W.A. Members

FROM: Herb Brown and Roger Wicksman, Co-Chairpersons  
Conservation Committee (Members: Kay Beij, Mary Perry,  
Scott Pulsifer, Paul Whitman, and Robert Wicksman)

RE: Development of Conservation Goals and Plans

The Articles of Incorporation of our organization commit us to three purposes: "...1) the conservation of the natural resources of the land, water, marshland, woodland and open spaces, and the plant and animal life therein; 2) the maintenance of the unique scenic and historic sites; and, 3) the protection of the waters of White Oak Pond and its tributaries."

To further this commitment, the Directors and the members of the Conservation Committee believe that the time has come for us actively to pursue more specific conservation objectives for the pond and its watershed. White Oak Pond's relatively small size is both a source of vulnerability and of strength: even a few damaging changes can have a devastating effect, while, because of its manageable scope, it is feasible to watch and help care for it. If we wait, only prepared to react to threats to our unique and quiet area as they inevitably arise, we will decrease (and may even miss) our chances for effective action.

The Conservation Committee and the Directors are mindful that the present condition of the area reflects the good judgment of the Town: the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board, and Conservation Commission. These have been supported by the State through its agencies: Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission, Safety Services, Marine Division, by members of the legislature when we sought their judgment in limiting power motors on the Pond, and, indeed, representatives in the State House when we corresponded with them regarding proposed use of the mountain areas for flights simulating tactical manoeuvres on weekends. We have been grateful for information and support provided by non-profit groups: Lakes Region Planning Association and other Land Trust groups in this area. In addition to these official bodies with which we consult and cooperate, our concerns have been generously shared by our neighbors, regardless of formal membership.

We feel that a simple listing of our shared concerns will contribute to these cooperative efforts. Such a listing can serve as a reminder and may suggest ways of anticipating problems so as to reduce the risks of reacting too late. The Conservation Committee, following the instructions of the

Directors at their 6/24/89 meeting, therefore proposes the following statement of conservation goals and methods for discussion at the Annual Meeting:

A. Conservation Goals

1. to maintain, and possibly improve, the purity and clarity of the water in the pond.
2. to encourage all changes ~~be~~ be in harmony with the natural and visual quality of the watershed, and to oppose all commercial development.
3. to maintain the present water level of the pond.
4. to acknowledge that all areas of the watershed are important, but that certain spots may deserve particular emphasis:
  - a. islands in the pond
  - b. tributaries to the pond and/or wetlands (e.g. Lamb Brook/Swamp)
  - c. currently undeveloped areas/parcels
  - d. areas/parcels with significant shoreline
  - e. the dam site
5. to maintain the pond's current freedom from chemical or organic contamination, such as water-milfoil from visiting boats and any materials from the town dump.
6. to maintain the present freedom from intrusive noise
7. to protect the loons and their nesting sites.

B. Methods to Achieve These Goals

1. establishing a program for regularly collecting data on the purity and clarity of the pond's water, and maintaining records of this information.
2. producing a "Conservation Map" that will help to inform all of us about the topography, watershed, and land ownership in our area.
3. encouraging conservation easements and other forms of land protection.
4. working closely with other groups who share our goals and may aid us in their attainment, such as the Squam Lakes Association (and its Land Conservation Committee), the N.H. Department of Environmental Services, the Lakes Region Conservation Trust, the Squam Lakes Conservation Society, and the Holderness Task Force on the Trust for NH Lands.
6. consulting regularly the Holderness Selectmen, Planning Committee, and Conservation Committee.
7. maintaining the necessary signs to outline the 7.5 horsepower law and directions for preventing milfoil spread.
8. assisting the town in continuing to protect the pond from any contamination from the dump.