

**White Oak Pond Watershed Association Board Meeting
Saturday, June 9, 2007
Anne Knight's, White Oak Pond Rd.**

Meeting Attendees: Anne Knight David Peterson, Marty Hirsch, Kevin Frank, Galen Beach (Yates), Ted Vansant, Lisa Lovett, Nancy McDonald, Anne Ireland, Sarah Young, Rich and Janet Cocchiaro

Absent: Cathy Claflin, Caryn McHose, Bill Southard, Will Stratton

Anne Knight called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Review of the meeting agenda. Conservation report by Anne Ireland added.

Review minutes of August Board meeting. Changed the spelling of Karen's/Caryn's name. A motion to approve the minutes by David Peterson, seconded by Kevin Frank. Approved.

Treasurer's Report – (Will Stratton in abstentia)

If anyone has any expenses please send them to Will at the WOPWA PO box 214 by the end of this month.

Opening balance (7/1/07):	\$2,106.00
Member dues - 1,080.00	
Craft Sale - 93.00	
Tax Refund - 70.99	
Interest - 1.41	
Total Revenue:	\$1,245.40
Water Testing – 90.00	
Lake Assn Dues – 250.00	
Income Tax – 71.00	
Annual Meeting – 30.00	
P.O. Box – 26.00	
Administration - ??	
Other - ??	
Total Expenses:	\$467.00
Closing Balance Estimate	\$2,884.40

Motion by Marty to approve the Treasurer's report – seconded by Kevin Frank. Motion passed.

Mary Perry Conservation Easement Fund

Kevin Frank spoke about setting up a specific fund for those residents in the watershed putting property into a conservation easement. The cost of putting land into a conservation easement is extensive. Our donation from a Fund to the individual, albeit small, is a token of our appreciation and knowledge that land has been conserved.

Ted made a motion for the establishment of the Conservation Easement Fund, by earmarking \$1000.00 from the current budget. Details of the Fund's structure and use will be determined by a committee selected to do so. Galen seconded. Motion passed.

The vote on this matter will be brought to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Conservation Report

Anne Ireland presented information about Rick Fabian's property on White Oak Pond Road. Rick is in the process of putting 3 out of 4 lots that abut the White Oak Pond Motel and Route 3 into conservation. The 4th lot with 128 feet of frontage on the Pond and 1/2 acre is on the market. A contingency of the sale is that the easement will be completed. Roger LaRochelle from the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) is working on the easement piece with the Fabian's. The WOPWA board is very appreciative of Rick's interest in putting land into a conservation easement and wishes to express appreciation and encouragement. However, we decided not to send any notes of thanks – or get involved – until the easement is complete and the land sold.

The SLCS holds easement on property and their job is to enforce. Anne Ireland will ask Roger LaRochelle if he's able to make sure easements are followed. She will make a report at Annual Meeting.

Ted Vansant suggested sending a welcome letter from WOPWA to the new owner (once it's sold), as it is important for the organization to keep informed and be a "watch dog" group. Anne Ireland also mentioned that Bob Haskell and Kay Beij are working on conservation easements for their properties on the Pond.

Galen mentioned that WOPWA members work with the town of Holderness regarding zoning and building permits, yet many restrictions are not followed up on.

Membership

Ted Vansant created a "WOPWA Information Sheet" and David Peterson resurrected a letter of invitation to encourage people in the watershed to join WOPWA. Galen was helpful in getting specific Pond facts for the information sheet.

It was agreed that David will do a mail merge from the database of residents in the watershed, which was created by Doug DeCluitt 4 years ago, and Ted will do the mailing (no later than June 21st). They will also include the membership sheet/dues form. The letter of invitation will go to non-members only to gain awareness and hopefully garner new members.

A separate mailing will go to current members with the annual meeting notice– and will also include a membership form and WOPWA information sheet. Lisa will contact Cathy Clafin about mailing to members.

Water Quality

Galen has done a tributary test and phosphorus test. The chloride is higher at the dump but below the state level of unacceptable. There was no presence of cyano bacteria (potential neurotoxins). Ph levels are moderately good. The conductivity at the dump tributary continues to rise – still no conclusive ruling as to what this means. If there is a heat wave, there could be a potential issue.

Anne Knight brought up the NH Lakes Association's lake host program. We will discuss whether or not we would like to have a lake host in 2008 at the Annual Meeting. The deadline to submit the request is March 2008.

Dam Report

Janet will report about the water level and any other dam issues at the Annual Meeting

Aging Septic Systems Report (renamed the Environmental Leeching Project)

Rich Cocchiaro's report was handed out. Chris Devine from the SLA will be invited to speak at the annual meeting on his and SLA's experiences with septic system leeching issues. We would like to have the water quality trend analysis completed on our pond data and have Chris interpret it. The last time our data was analyzed was in 2005.

(In a timely fashion, Janet and Rich Cocchiaro arrived at 12:30.)

Galen will try to get the trend analysis from DES and will contact Chris Devine regarding the data and having it analyzed. Rich will call Chris and invite him to speak at the meeting, suggesting a 15-minute presentation followed by Q&A.

Kevin Frank will speak with Bob Rothschild (when Bob returns at the end of the month) regarding public access to the Pond beside the dam. WOPWA wishes to put a sign up at the dam regarding milfoil and other facts about White Oak Pond but Bob wants to control what gets posted and when. Kevin will also talk to the state regarding the public access issue.

Janet reported that the dam was opened up once this year by Barry Eastman because of high water from heavy rains.

Website

<http://www.whiteoakpond.com>

Thank you Galen for scanning documents for the site – and Adam Vicinus and Anne Knight for the website creation. The site has an area for posting News items, such as a notice of annual meeting (at 10am not 4pm at the Cocchiaro's), and Calendar of Events. Other areas include History of the Association, Business of WOPWA (minutes, bylaws, etc.) and more. Use of the site for blogging has not been developed yet. Nancy Voorhis has volunteered to be the web guru. Janet volunteered to have the website up on a computer at the Annual Meeting for members to view.

Rich mentioned we should have a map of the watershed on the site (to be obtained if possible from Roger LaRochelle, SLCS).

Bylaws

Will Stratton, Corinne Hirsch and Anne Knight met last August to go over the ByLaws. It was noted that By-Law changes made 1998 were not recorded in the By-Laws handed out last year at Annual Meeting. The 1998 article (Article VI: Water Rights) was added to the By-Laws by Anne and Article VII Miscellaneous was added about the use of the masculine pronoun. Other changes were made to clarify terms of office - President and Vice President terms are 2 years. Secretary and Treasurer are a 1 year term.

A major change was made to the membership year - changing it to September through August – NOT June through May.

Galen will verify from old minutes that Article VI did pass in 1998. Last year at the Annual Meeting it was decided to set the winter water level at one foot below the top of the dam (rather than 6" as Article VI originally stated). Typos and other mistakes in the draft of the revised By-Laws will be fixed and copies distributed at Annual Meeting for approval.

Nominating Committee

Cathy Claflin cannot continue as secretary, so a new secretary is needed. Lisa was encouraged to become Secretary.

New Board members are needed. Anne Ireland will nominate Will Brown at the Annual Meeting (sssshhhh).

The following need to be renominated for a second term: David Peterson, Sarah Young and Caryn McHose

Peter Levin and Anne Knight cannot be re-elected to the Board as they have both served 2 terms. Yet officers do not need to be Board members so Anne can serve another year as president.

Lisa Lovett, Ted Vansant, Marjorie Bogdanow, Bill Southard, and Marty Hirsch are still on the Board (2nd year of 1st term)

Anne Ireland will be nominated for her first term.

Sara Rothschild was also suggested along with another Levin.

Marty Hirsch and Lisa Lovett will contact all current Board members to ask determine if they wish to continue or inform them their terms are up.

Annual Meeting Volunteers

Cathy Claflin will update the flier about Annual Meeting RSVP to Janet and let her know what you're bringing.

Lisa: Beverages, paper goods, condiments

Anne: cold cuts and breads

Marty and Galen will help set up and tear down

Lisa or Cathy will send notice of meeting – get database from Cathy

Lois Stratton– let her know upon her return that she's responsible for arts & craft sale

Janet mentioned John Murphy as a gentleman who puts in and takes out docks. He wanted to bring his working boat onto the pond. Unfortunately, the horsepower is over the limit so he's unable to. However, his company is Innovative Contractors in Ashland if anyone is interested.

Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectively submitted

Lisa Lovett, Acting Secretary