

## **WOPWA Board Meeting Minutes Draft**

June 19, 2010, 9:00 am

Home of Anne Knight

The meeting was convened by President Anne Knight at 9:15. Present were Anne Knight, Will Brown, Janet Cocchiaro, Will Stratton, Adam Levin, Nancy McDonald, Kevin Frank, Ted Vansant, Roger Uhler, Mimzie Uhler, Chuck Vicinus, Galen Beach and Anne Ireland.

The minutes of the Board meeting of August 19, 2009 were approved.

**Treasurer's Report and Dues Collection Strategy.** Will Stratton presented the treasurer's report. We have spent more than last year because we paid for water testing for 2008 as well as 2009. The total additional expenditures were \$400. The testing fees have also gone up so we must budget about \$300 this year. PSU is now in charge of the water testing program. \$1150 in dues was collected, representing 34 memberships (down from a high of about 45) with most members joining at the Annual Meeting. The current balance is \$1739.

We will discuss a dues collection strategy at the August Board Meeting, after analyzing the membership data. (see next item).

**Membership Issues and Website Updates.** Kevin suggested that we go over the membership list at the August board meeting and then assess how to proceed to attract more members. The data base has been corrected to a large extent by Nancy Voorhis who has done an excellent job. Attendees will be asked to check the current membership list at the Annual Meeting. We will recruit members by personally inviting new people to Annual Meeting. Then after Annual Meeting the Board can determine which members we have lost and decide how we might encourage them to rejoin. Last year we sent the Annual Meeting notice to everyone on the database and one new person came to the 2009 meeting as a result.

**Website updates.** Nancy has added new pictures to the website. The website functions well and is easy to use. Meeting dates, minutes, documents and the membership list are all available. It would be helpful to see a count of the number of "hits" it gets. Nancy will be working on adding the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund (MHPCF) information to the website. It was suggested that pictures of our arts and crafts be added to the website also, with information on how to contact the artists. Janet suggested that we add information about WOP properties available for rent, on the restricted portion of the site. The purpose would be to help a property owner who cannot accommodate a potential guest or renter connect with other potential rentals. We questioned whether this supports the objectives of the organization. We decided to place this item on the agenda of the Annual Meeting to get input from the whole organization before making a decision.

Changes in property ownership and occupation in the watershed over the past year were reported by Mimzie from the town records and other names were supplied by board members.

Eric Johnson and Susan McCann have bought the Pettingill house on Coxboro Road.

Derek Eaton and Arainne Lenz bought the Dixie Roberts house, also on Coxboro Road.

Teresa Lynn Potter has purchased the McDonald house on East Holderness Road.

Colin Hamell and Sara Fraser now own the Emerson house on Route 3.

Ian & Lora Rollison are renting the Young/Davies house on Coxboro Road.

Individual Board members volunteered to contact the new people and invite them to the Annual Meeting. Other than those changes, the address list is fairly current.

**Water Quality Update.** Galen reported there have been no significant changes in water quality.

The hypo-lymnetic oxygen level has traditionally been low at WOP, but this year a test will be done in August rather than September to determine if this is a result of the time of year of the testing. The Committee plans to sample and test in June, July and August. The most significant events occur on the pond during the hot months. Each testing event should include a Board member as an observer for educational and experience purposes.

At Janet's urging, a loon raft has been put up by the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) at no charge. While the loons haven't nested there, it is not unusual for them to wait a few years before using a raft. The actual nest may be close to the loon raft. There is no warning sign to indicate the presence of a nest and we prefer not to have one, feeling that it may call attention to the raft rather than protect it.

**Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund.** Will Stratton reported that the balance in the fund is \$13,359.78, of which donations were \$13,350 and the rest is interest. \$3000 came in early this year from the fundraising letter, representing 20 contributions. These are encouraging results. Nancy Voorhis via Ted suggested that WOPWA send a thank you note to contributors in addition to the one sent by the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS). The names and addresses will be obtained from Roger La Rochelle by Will Stratton. Galen will supply notecards with photos of the pond, Kevin and the MHPCF Committee will provide the text, and Galen will address and mail them.

Anne Ireland noted that Roger La Rochelle was happy to see so many WOPWA people at the SLCS Annual Meeting last August. Anne encourages more of us to attend this year.

Kevin gave an explanation of how the Fund works, ie., 20% of the year end balance can be offered to anyone who conserves land in the watershed for expenses in effecting the transfer. Monies are paid directly to the vendor of services such as surveying or legal, allowing the conservor to save some expenses and income tax on them. Land conservation is a long and difficult process and can be discouraging for people.

The MHPCF will continue to solicit funds until it reaches the goal of \$25,000. The fund is over halfway to the goal at present. A mailing every year allows the sending of an updated conservation map which serves as an incentive for future land conservation and lets people know how much money has been raised and land conserved. News about conservation around other lakes in the area will be included.

The Brown family is working toward a conservation easement which would connect the Haskell and Beij easements in a corridor. Nancy McDonald is also pursuing conserving some of her land. The Annual Meeting is a focal point for promoting the fund.

The volume of returned mail from this year's solicitation was far below last year, with about 30 returns out of about 135 mailed. Some fall mailings went to summer addresses. It is necessary to know which address to use, and it was decided to use the winter address as the default address. Each year will produce fewer returns if we are diligent about keeping the list updated, and if we reduce the number of letters sent.

Will Brown noted that a number of loud weekend parties have been held at the Rothschild gazebo. The Rothschilds will be contacted as we believe they are not aware of this.

**Dam update.** Janet reported that everything related to the dam seems to be working fine. Additional flowers have been added at the Levin memorial.

**Annual Meeting Planning.** The date has been set for July 17. The place will be the Holderness

Historical Society if it is available, with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society meeting room as a possible backup, though it is thought to be too small. The new barn at the Squam Lakes Association (SLA) is not likely to be available this year but may be for future meetings. The schedule will be coffee at 8:30, meeting from 9 to 11, then the potluck lunch and social time. It is important that the schedule be made very clear. We would like to shorten the meeting, but agreed that it is difficult to do so. In an attempt to keep the meeting as short as possible, a time limit will be assigned to each agenda item. Ted Vansant will be the timekeeper.

Agenda items will be:

Minutes

Treasurer's Report

Water Quality

Website, including adding rental information

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund

Dues/Contributions to other organizations

Speaker – Someone from LPC to speak about the loons – 15 minutes.

Wildlife sightings

Arts and Crafts will be displayed from 8:30 until the end of the potluck. Lois Stratton will be the organizer.

Potluck – Nancy McDonald is in charge and will be the contact person for the RSVP's.

A postcard will be the first communication about the Annual Meeting. Anne will provide content. Nancy Voorhis will print address labels and Ted VS will print and mail them, including to the new people who have been identified. Nancy will also send an email invitation to everyone who has an email address. The invitation should include a reference to an update on the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund during the meeting. The postcard and the email invitation will both refer the recipients to the website for the agenda, minutes of last year's meeting, treasurer's report and a redesigned membership application. A personal invitation will be extended to any new people we know.

**Nominations for Board and Officers** – by default the Board has become the nominating committee.

The following people were discussed as nominees for the 2010-2011 year. They will be contacted.

Officers:

President – Bob Maloney, Sara Rothschild, Michael Bogdanow, Joan Vicinus, Sid Lovett may be asked for suggestions if none of the above agrees to serve.

Ted Vansant, Mimzie Uhler and Will Stratton will continue as Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Existing Board: All current Board members wish to continue with the exception of Adam Levin, Lois Stratton, and Nancy McDonald (whose term expires)

Board Nominee suggestions: Anne Levin, Nancy Weymouth, Barbara Gray, Deb Chase, Marge Bogdanow.

**Other Business.** The Board recommends that WOPWA approve a donation of \$250 to the LPC this year to recognize their contribution to White Oak Pond of the loon raft, and pay dues of \$300 to the NH Lakes Association, as we have done in the past.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimzie Uhler, Secretary