

White Oak Pond Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
August 26, 2021
Via Zoom

FINAL
approved at 6/12/22 Board Meeting

President Nancy Isikoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Meeting Attendees: Marge Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Janet Cocchiaro, Cici Cyr, Benjamin Gampel, Dee Hopper, Nancy Isikoff, Susan Levin, Kim Lovett, Sara Rothschild, Bryan Sweeney and Nancy Voorhis.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy I. reported for Walter that we have received dues from 36 members and our present balance is \$6012.94.

Membership – Nancy Isikoff

Nancy reported that there are 92 people on the WOPWA email list but only 36 members because there are multiple emails to some of the members.

Water Quality Committee – Nancy Voorhis & Bryan Sweeney

Nancy Isikoff, Nancy Voorhis, Bryan Sweeney and Deborah Freedberg met to discuss what the committee should focus on and decided that each one of them would look at the SLWA plan and identify what could be taken from that plan to apply to WOPWA rather than try to reinvent the wheel. Bryan is also going to get a Lake Smart evaluation from NH Lakes so he can be better informed of the process and be a resource to others. The committee also decided it would be important to circulate Lake Smart booklets and assess the impact of the Holderness dump on White Oak Pond.

Herbicide Update:

Nancy I. reported that NHEC has decided not to spray White Oak Pond Road and other areas along Route 3 due to the multiple requests by residents to opt out of spraying and concerns voiced about the impact the spraying would have on White Oak Pond (this good news was previously shared by email). She also stated that they will not be spraying Coxboro Road, Lane Road or East Holderness Road this year so those people residing on those roads who already have “No Spraying” signs should hold on to them for next year. The question was asked as to whether or not the spraying has already occurred so posted signs could be taken down. Nancy will get confirmation as to when the spraying will occur and report by email so people will know when to take signs down. The signs should be saved for next year – Nancy I. will be happy to store them.

Proposal for Sign at Dam – Illegal Dumping – Sara Rothchild

As previously discussed by email – the Rothchilds witnessed some illegal dumping at the dam. Evidently, a landscaper’s truck was trying to fill their tank with water but the hose broke, spraying hydroseed (which contains fertilizer) all around the dam. The Rothchilds reported it to the police and to DES. The company did come back and clean up the area so DES could not site them for the spill. However, the Holderness Police are now aware that any commercial use of that area is illegal. Although the dam is owned by the town, the Rothchilds own the land surrounding the dam and requested input to the contents of a sign they would like to post. There presently is a sign that states no commercial use along with multiple other restrictions making the sign lengthy so that people probably don’t take the time to read it. It was suggested that a simple large sign saying something like “No Commercial Use” would have more impact. Rothchilds will move forward with purchasing and posting a new sign.

Proposal for Fireworks Ordinance at the Next Town Meeting – Eric MacLeish

Eric reported that someone launched a boat on White Oak Pond and was setting off bottle rockets. He asked them to stop but they refused. Since there are no “No Trespassing” signs (nor do the Rothchilds want to stop the public use of the Pond), Eric suggested requesting a town ordinance that would prohibit fireworks on White Oak Pond. However, he has recently learned that the Holderness Planning Board is proposing to have a town-wide ordinance banning fireworks on any body of water in the town. Janet Cocchiaro is a member of the Planning Board and will keep the WOPWA Board informed as to whether or not the Planning Board proceeds with the town-wide proposal. If the Planning Board does not, then WOPWA will consider such a proposal for just White Oak Pond.

In addition, a drone was witnessed flying over White Oak Pond – an invasion of people’s privacy. The person controlling it was approached but mentioned that he was only testing the drone. Nancy reminded everyone to be vigilant of any unusual activity on the pond and to report any such activity to the police to have an official record of the incident.

Process to Consider Request at Annual Meeting to Change Name of WOPWA:

Nancy requested input as to how to proceed with the request to change WOPWA’s name. There was much discussion about the best way to get input from those concerned. Suggestions included: a designated task force to come up with options, an email to the membership with possible choices or a more informal group to discuss. It was decided that a more informal group be invited to discuss the options. Nancy will send out an invite to the membership to have those interested meet to discuss the issues and present to the board.

Suggestions for 50th Anniversary of WOPWA:

This topic was tabled until next summer since WOPWA's anniversary is not until 2023.

Board Meeting Minutes – June 1, 2021

The Minutes of June 1, 2021 Board Meeting were approved as submitted.

Updates:

Nancy reported that SLA would like WOPWA's consent to collaborate with them in a proactive cyanobacteria testing through UNH which she believes is at no cost to us. All agreed to move ahead with this collaboration. She will inform us if there are any costs involved.

There was a question about the low-flying aircraft that has occurred recently over White Oak Pond. Bryan S. reported that the Yankee 2 MOA (military operation area) is centered on the Sandwich range and impacts our area. Aircraft is permitted to operate from 100' AGL (above ground level) to 9,000' AGL, sunrise to sunset. NO aircraft carries live ammunition during any exercise. These operations are very intermittent.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores (Dee) C. Hopper
Secretary