

Minutes of WOPWA Annual Meeting  
July 17, 2004

Meeting was called to order by Roger Uhler, President, at 4:25 PM. Everyone present introduced themselves (21 people at that time). Others were introduced as they arrived (31 people altogether).

Roger began by telling us that sadly two of our WOPWA members died in the last 6 months — Ben Evans and Art Bartholomew. Good news announced is that Brendan and Amanda Frank recently had a baby girl.

Treasurers Report: Will Stratton

The report was printed on the back of the Agenda. It showed a deficit of about \$850. The net cost of annual meeting last year was \$290 after selling some of the excess items that had been purchased for the dinner after the meeting. Dues received last year were \$1050. Kevin Frank moved to approve the report and Janet Cocchiaro seconded — passed unanimously.

Will explained the Board proposal that the organization maintain its donation of \$250 to the New Hampshire Lakes Association and discontinue the other donations. He explained that we have worked off our budget surplus by giving donations to other worthy organizations and it is not advisable for WOPWA to keep a large surplus. Instead the Board encourages people to support the other organizations on their own and use any tax deduction available to the members, which WOPWA cannot take. This year the Board has requested that members increase their dues payments over last year. There are three levels for WOPWA dues — \$10, \$25, and \$50. Last year if \$10 was paid, the Board suggests that a member move up to the next level if possible — i.e. from \$10 to \$25, etc. — although it can be any amount over last year's level. Will has collected \$350 in dues so far and will be receiving more. After explanations about the proposal about our donations for next year, Anne Ireland moved, and Sara Rothschild seconded the proposal. It passed unanimously.

Water Sampling Report: Galen Y. Beach

The report was given to the acting secretary for inclusion with these minutes. Galen did the monitoring this past year with help from other WOPWA members. The report indicates slightly lower phosphorous level; conductivity the same, and no major changes except a slight improvement overall. Acidity level is same as other lakes around the State. Samples were taken differently this year — from tributaries in addition to the normal places. August 22 is the next scheduled sampling date. July phosphorous data is in with a slight increase. Sampling was done in April in order to catch spring runoff to test chloride (which turns out to test low — a good sign!) — showing no road runoff or septic problems. Janet Cocchiaro announced that a Science Center speaker on July 19 and 26 is due to talk about acid rain research. Conductivity relates to ability of water to carry an electric charge, and higher than 100 means there is a human problem. Conductivity has not increased so far this year. The DES wants to know why we stopped sampling from some of our former sampling stations. No one had an answer. Galen will make a map of road testing places, and someone suggested that we test near the motel. A few people volunteered to help Galen with the August 22 sampling. Galen explained that WOP compares very well with other similar -size lakes, and that WOP is better than average in the State. Roger thanked Galen for the report and her sampling effort.

**Old Business**

Fall Drawdown Proposals -- proposed by the Board, reviewed by a sub-committee and presented by Roger Uhler.

Roger distributed a handout explaining the three options (copy attached to the minutes). He first reviewed the current drawdown plan in the ByLaws. He described "normal" as 2" below the top of the dam in the summer. Purpose of the drawdown is to allow people on the lake to work on their

shoreline areas. Next Roger reviewed last year's drawdown based on the vote last year. The third proposal to be considered was developed by the Board, was reviewed and refined by a subcommittee (Doug DeCluit, Galen Y. Beach and Roger Uhler) and was next presented by Roger.

As the options were discussed, Roger clarified Option 3: i.e. to do what we did last year (only 8" drawdown) and every 3 or 4 or 5 years do the larger ("maxi") drawdown for property owners to clean their shoreline -- if they want. He explained that it is not clear what damage to animal and plant life occurs to water life in a drawdown unless it is over the winter, which was not in the proposal. Will Stratton moved Option 3 on a 3-year interval; seconded by George Levin. Discussion followed. Marty Hirsch mentioned that not drawing down the lake this past year might have helped the water quality. The intent is to drop water gradually so waterlife can adjust. Roger asked for a show of hands of how many people take advantage of drawdown and several hands went up. Sense is that drawdown would not be done if no one wants to do it. Sara Rothschild expressed concern about boats in the water when drawdown starts since they are having a wedding the weekend after Columbus Day. Roger explained that drawdown is slow enough not to impact her -- i.e. 2" per week. Motion was changed to start with maxi drawdown in year 2005 and not this year. It was mentioned during the discussion that the DES says that some lakes do their drawdown every other year. Plant management relative to drawdown is iffy since one cannot control freezing, etc. We have done the "maxi" drawdown every year since 1988, except for 2003. Having the mini drawdown in 2004 of 8" and maxi in 2005, would make it 3 years after the last maxi drawdown. Efforts will be made to make sure at least one lakefront property owner plans to take advantage of the maxi drawdown before implementing it. It is possible to postpone the maxi one year at a time upon survey of lakefront owners until someone wants a maxi drawdown. After the question was called, the motion was passed with one dissenting vote.

## **New Business**

### WOP Conservation Planning Group: Roger Uhler

The Squam Lakes Conservation Society wants to meet for discussion with a planning group from WOPWA. Roger circulated a sign up sheet. The task will be to look at lands in the watershed and determine options for conserving the land. Members should contact Janet Cocchiaro if interested. Kevin Frank says that the new committee should report regularly to the Board; it can also be a committee to encourage thinking about conservation without infringing on property owner rights. There was a large map in the back of the room that showed the big picture of conservation trust and easements in the area. The SLCS wants to look at the entire watershed of 3000 acres for conservation land.

### Other Business

Anne Knight reminded everyone present to verify information on the membership list and include email information.

Lois Stratton proposed that next year we organize a craft table (like the one she set up this year) at the WOPWA meeting. Items created by WOPWA members could be displayed for sale and 15% of any proceeds would go to WOPWA. Kevin Frank seconded. Everyone approved and Lois agreed to organize it for next year.

David Peterson has taken over the database prepared by Doug DeCluit of names of people in the watershed to invite to join WOPWA. He has drafted a letter and a mailing will be made to tell people why join WOPWA and encourage them to become active.

### 2005 Annual Meeting Date

Date proposed is July 16, 2005. Discussion: 47 people attended last year and 31 this year so fewer people attended this year due to new date and late reminder notice. Kevin Frank moved and Lois Stratton seconded that we keep the date as the 3rd week of July (7/16/2005). Discussion indicated that we should avoid the first 2 weekends in August since they conflict with other meetings in the area (SLA, SLNSC, Tennis Tournament, etc.). It has always been Saturday and was moved to Saturday afternoon in order to

include the social time after that includes a picnic dinner. George Levin moved that we let the Board decide the best Saturday in July or August after polling the membership. Rich Cocchiaro seconded. Vote count was 14 approved and 7 opposed. A straw vote taken of those in attendance for the Saturday before Labor Day or the last Saturday in July showed a majority in favor of the end of July.

Volunteers to host Annual Meeting in 2005:

Kevin Frank offered to host again next year if in July but not August. Board will meet and make decision after polling the membership about possible dates. Kevin's offer was gratefully acknowledged.

Election of Board of Directors:

Galen Beach Yates for 2<sup>nd</sup> two-year term

Bill Southard, Martin Hirsch, Marjorie Bogdanow, Lisa Lovett for 1<sup>st</sup> two-year terms

Ted Vansant was nominated from the floor for 1<sup>st</sup> two-year term.

All were unanimously elected.

Election of Officers:

President 2004-2006: Janet Cocchiaro

VP 2004-2006: Anne Knight

Treasurer 2004-2005: Will Stratton

Secretary 2004-2005 Joan Vicinus

The "Dream Team" slate passed unanimously with no nominations from the floor.

Acknowledgements:

Galen Y. Beach was thanked for coordination of this year's picnic dinner social and water sampling. Kevin Frank and Caryn McHose were thanked for hosting the meeting and holding the contra dance. Janet Cocchiaro thanked Roger and gave him a gift for his years of service – framed photos of WOP by Janet and Lois.

Sightings: adolescent bear, mama and 2 cubs, 2 baby loons, enormous turtle in yard, bears on video tape of adult and cub, one lone turkey, mom and 2 cubs on video, new beaver dam, big swamp dam has been broken through.

Announcement: Blake Ireland announced book by Rachel Carley about Squam is for sale (\$65) at SLA and it includes WOP lore.

With no other news, the new president, Janet Cocchiaro, called to end the meeting. Adjourned at 5:50 PM.

Note: The potluck dinner and contra dancing were enjoyed by all who stayed and others who joined in.

Respectfully submitted

Anne Knight, Acting Secretary

Attendance Sheet on 7/17/04 included the following names:

Dave Peterson, Dick Peterson, Anne Knight, Lois & Will Stratton, Kevin Frank, Marty & Corinne Hirsch, Jean M. Lovett, Jeannie Lovett West, Lisa Lovett, Nancy McDonald, Janet & Rich Cocchiaro, Adam Levin, George Levin, Roger & Mimzie Uhler, Nancy Voorhis, Ted Vansant, Galen Y. Beach, Sara Rothschild, Michael Bogdanov, Caryn McHose, Ed & Marie Stevenson, Kent Lawrence, Dodie Greenwood, Dave Boettcher, Anne & Blake Ireland,