

**White Oak Pond Watershed Association  
Annual Meeting and Picnic  
July 8, 2006**

**The meeting was held at the home of Doug and Beth DeCluitt. President Janet Cocchiaro called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.**

*These minutes were amended subsequent to the original distribution to correct an error. In the original version distributed to the Board of Directors, Anne Ireland was incorrectly listed as a Board member. Anne is a strong candidate for Board membership and is invited to attend Board meetings. (August 17, 2006, Cathy Claflin, Secretary)*

**Meeting attendees:** Galen Beach, Margie & Michael Bogdonow, Cathy Maloney Claflin, Janet & Rich Cocchiaro, Doug & Beth DeCluitt, Chris Devine, Kevin Frank, Marty & Corinne Hirsch, Virginia Hood, Anne & Blake Ireland, Anne Knight, Roger LaRochelle (SLCS), George & Anne Levin, Susan Levin, Lisa Lovett, Sid Lovett, Nancy McDonald, Roger & Mimsy Uhler, Dave Peterson, Dick Peterson, Bob & Sara Rothschild, Lois & Will Stratton, Bill & Martha Southard, Nancy Voorhis & Ted Vansant, Roger Wicksman, Sarah Young

**Minutes** Janet reviewed the minutes from the 2005 annual meeting. A vote taken and the minutes were accepted.

#### **WOPWA Member Update**

Janet noted the passing of WOPWA founder Mary Perry, mother of Kevin Frank, last winter and suggested that the WOPWA Board establish a special fund in Mary's memory to be used for potential land acquisition in the WOP watershed. The Board will explore this suggestion at their next meeting. Janet also acknowledged the passing of long-time WOPWA members Irene and Irwin Freedberg and Eric West, all within the last year.

#### **Real Estate and Construction Activity**

Janet Cocchiaro reported that the Westbergs are building a house on Westberg Road on the pond, the Rothschilds are putting up a barn-like structure next to their house on Rte. 3, and the O'Neill house on White Oak Pond Road is on the market.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

Will Stratton reviewed the Treasurer's Report, a copy of which is in the Secretary's files. The report showed an excess of revenue over expenses of \$471.61 for the fiscal year and a closing balance of \$2,106.01 as of June 30, 2006. The report was approved.

#### **Water Quality Report**

Galen Beach reported that WOP received a good water quality report from the NH testing lab in Concord. Copies were distributed. While conductivity has increased over the last 10 years, it is not a major source of concern. Nancy Voorhis distributed a list of possible contributors to conductivity which included road run-off and septic leakage. Increasing phosphorous levels are a minor concern.

Lois Stratton mentioned that rocks at their shoreline are more "slimey" than usual. Galen suggested that the increase in phosphorus can contribute to increased algae.

Galen asked that members be aware of signs of Cyanobacteria, AKA blue-green algae, on the pond. Members who find evidence of suspected Cyanobacteria are encouraged to contact Nancy or Galen who will take samples to be tested. For more information, go to <http://www.des.state.nh.us/factsheets/wmb/wmb-10.htm>. Janet distributed a handout with information about milfoil, which is always worthy of monitoring in the lake.

#### **Dam Report**

Janet reported that 14 inches of ice was manufactured in March, causing damage to the WOP shoreline. Though the event was unusual, Janet suggested that we lower the water level by an additional 4" this winter in order to minimize potential damage. This will result in a water level approximately 1 foot below the board on the dam versus the usual 8 inches. Anne Knight made a motion to maintain the water level one foot below the board in the dam at all times. The motion was seconded and approved. Janet agreed to notify Barry Eastman of our decision.

#### **Development Activity Within the WOP Watershed**

SLCS's Roger LaRochelle addressed the issue of development on Butternut Lane that is designated as a prime wetland. This issue was brought to the attention of the Board at its meeting in June so Roger was invited to our meeting to discuss the issue. Unfortunately, the area was not officially registered with the town as prime wetland due to a computer error. Sid Lovett and Janet discussed the need for GPS mapping of wetlands and buffer zones. Sid suggested that WOPWA submit a resolution to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society requesting that all property in the WOP watershed be mapped. This will be an assignment for follow up by the WOPWA board.

### **Celebration of Creativity**

Lois Stratton arranged a crafts table as a *Celebration of Creativity* with a portion of all sales to benefit WOPWA. Among the offerings were birch bark vases, hand-made jewellery, watercolor paintings and note paper, photographs of wildlife, copies of Genie Lovett West's book, *Stripped*, and copies of Caryn McHose and Kevin Frank's book, *How Life Moves*. There will be another *Celebration of Creativity* next year. All who have something to contribute should contact Lois Stratton.

### **WOPWA Bylaws**

Janet read the purpose of WOPWA as written in the WOPWA Bylaws, "The object for which this corporation is established is to promote for the benefit of the inhabitants in and adjacent to the watershed of the White Oak Pond: (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." People agreed that this statement of purpose is adequate.

Janet asked for volunteers to help Galen and Nancy with water monitoring. (See below of the names of the people who volunteered.)

Sid Lovett reminded WOPWA members about the Asquam /Shepard Hill tour scheduled for August 8, 2006, sponsored by *Arts & Culture in the White Mountains*

Sid informed members that eagles returned to Squam Lake after an absence of 50 years. A mother and 2 eaglets have been sighted. Sid also told members about a new, world-class resource for research on local lakes and watersheds based at Plymouth State College. He also shared his experience as a NH State representative in trying to obtain approval for a bill that will impose speed limits on Lake Winnepesaukee and other New Hampshire lakes. The bill failed in the Senate after passing the House.

### **New Board Members**

Janet proposed the slate of officers and board members for 2006 and all were approved. Anne Knight, was elected President and David Peterson was elected Vice President.

#### Board Members:

Nancy McDonald (1st year, 1st term);

Richard Peterson, Sarah Young, Caryn McHose (2nd year, 1st term);

Bill Southard, Marty Hirsch, Margie Bogdanow, Lisa Lovett, Ted Vansant (1st year, 2nd term)

Anne Knight, Peter Levin (2nd year, 2nd term).

#### Officers:

Will Stratton, Treasurer; Galen Beach and Nancy Voorhis, Water Monitoring; Janet Cocchiaro, Dam Liaison; Cathy Claflin, Secretary

### **New Business**

1. Bob Rothschild suggested that all property owners in the watershed with septic systems that are more than 15 years old have them checked out to make sure they are sound. Rich Cocchiaro added that faulty septic systems in the watershed threaten the health of WOP and stated that it is within WOPWA's mission to address this issue. Rich suggested that the State of New Hampshire may have funds to contribute to septic system remediation. The board will appoint a committee to look into this.
2. It was also recommended that the Board take a proactive approach with regard to real estate opportunities and transfers within the watershed. It was generally agreed that the WOPWA Board should maintain a dialogue with the owners of WOP Motel to understand their plans for the future since it is likely that they will want to retire at some point. Roger LaRochelle (SLCS) suggested that the WOPWA Board ask the WOP Motel for a right of first refusal which may cost a

couple of thousand dollars. Janet C agreed to contact the McHugh's, owners of the motel, to learn about any plans they may have for the motel. Her notes will be attached to the minutes.

3. Rich Cocchiaro suggest that the WOPWA Board invite a member of the SLA Board to next year's meeting to share his/her experience in dealing with conservation, property development and water quality issues.
4. Nancy Voorhis asked for volunteers to assist in water sampling – Cathy Clafin, Roger Wicksman and Nancy McDonald volunteered.

#### **2007 Annual Meeting and Social**

Rich and Janet Cocchiaro offered to host the meeting at a date to be determined by Janet. The members agreed on a start time of 10:30 a.m. with a picnic to follow at 12:00. Janet will email the date to everyone.

#### **WOPWA Bylaws**

Ann Knight reported that WOPWA's bylaws call for two standing committees: (1) water monitoring, and (2) nominating. The bylaws also call for the new board to meet immediately after the annual meeting so Anne Knight offered to host the meeting at her house, 66 White Oak Pond Rd, on August 12th at 9 a.m. Anne asked for volunteers to review the Bylaws and propose any changes to be considered at the Board meeting for vote at next year's annual meeting. Corinne Hirsch and Will Stratton volunteered.

#### **Wildlife Sightings**

Bear and cub seen on WOP road and also on Lane Road. Also seen are the loon pair, beavers, snapping turtle and black snake.

Janet recognized the DeCluitts for kind hospitality in hosting the gathering and thanked committee members for organizing the social portion of the annual meeting. All members present acknowledged the contributions of out going President Janet Cocchiaro with a round of applause.