

**WOPWA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**July 19, 2008 at the Holderness Historical Society**

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by President Anne Knight.

**Those in attendance** were: Anne & Lew Knight, Marty & Corinne Hirsch, Janet & Rich Cocchiaro, Lois and Bill Stratton, Jaime Schuyler, Bill & Martha Southard, Nancy McDonald, Bonnie Hunt, Bob Maloney, Roger & Mimzie Uhler, Roger La Rochelle, Jeannie West, Sid Lovett, Cathy Claflin, Ted Van Sant, Nancy Voorhis, Lili & Robert Young, Margie & Michael Bogdanow, Bob & Sara Rothschild, Mary Ann Saul, Kevin Frank, Caryn McHose, Brendan Frank, Anne & Blake Ireland, Chris Devine, George & Ann Levin, Susan Levin, Doug DeCluitt.

All were welcomed with special welcomes extended to George Levin, Chris Devine (SLA) and Roger LaRochelle (SLCS). Anne noted that our meeting here at the HHS was without charge and that we now have a drawer at the historical society for the archiving of WOPWA materials of importance. It is available for our use on the second floor.

The following correction to the **Minutes from the 2007 Annual Meeting** was received in a letter from Rick and Georgene Fabian. The item needing correction appears in the 2007 minutes under Conservation issues around the lake. To be added as an addendum/correction to the 2007 minutes will be the following: Subsequently, Mr. Hunt did not wish to remove the covenant, so the Fabians will keep the back lot (along Route 3) and a sale is pending for the lakeshore portion for pond access and is waiting for word from a lawyer. It was moved by Rich Cocchiaro and seconded by Ann Levin to accept the minutes as corrected.

**Treasurer's Report; Will Stratton**

Opening Balance: \$2801.83

Revenue (Dues, Interest, Craft Sales & Tax Refund) = 1336.73

Contributions to Mary Perry Conservation Fund = 250.00

Expenses (Dues to NH Lakes Assn, Water Testing, Income Tax, Administration) = 1131.62

Closing Balance: \$3256.94

Appropriation to Mary Perry Conservation Fund = \$1000.00

General Fund Balance: \$2006.94

All were reminded to pay dues for the coming year.

Some discussion occurred regarding why WOPWA must pay income tax and why we do not apply for non-profit status. Blake Ireland, supported by others said that discussions with the IRS indicated that the tax-paying status offers some protection to the members and that the organization directly benefits its members, while a non-profit does not.

**Membership Report**

As of June 30, 2008 there were 38 dues-paying members. Anne Knight pointed out that there are two lists; the dues-paying membership list and the residents-in-watershed list. She reminded everyone to check the current list of members to make additions and corrections and particularly to be sure the email address is correct. Anne Ireland has volunteered to manage the data base as an Excel file, and once updated, the membership list will either be sent to all members or will be

available on a password protected portion of the website. Anne Ireland will verify names and addresses of people listed in the Excel file with the town office.

### **Mary Perry Conservation Fund**

The committee (Rich Cocchiaro, Bob Maloney and Kevin Frank) charged with defining how the money from this fund will be managed and distributed presented a report which was distributed to the attendees and is available on request. The committee put forth a plan that includes 1) a monetary incentive to those who go to the expense and work of creating a conservation easement, 2) a recommendation that the Squam Lakes Conservation Society be the repository for the funds and 3) a proposal for a capital campaign to raise money to jump start the fund. The goal would be to raise \$20,000 to build the initial fund.

Considerable discussion followed with information supplied and questions answered by the committee members. Anyone who wishes to receive money from the fund would apply at the time the conservation easement process is begun and the funds would be dispersed when the process is completed. In terms of the WOPWA treasury, the funds received would not affect income or expense and would appear only as a memo item. The objective of the Mary Perry Fund, according to Kevin Frank, is to in some small way, on the part of the entire watershed, thank those who invest considerable time and energy to preserve land for the future, and to build a sense of community, with everyone sharing in thanking those who are able to set aside land in this way.

Sid Lovett moved and Marty Hirsch seconded a motion that the Fund concept as outlined in the report, be approved and it passed unanimously.

Roger LaRoche pointed out that the fund will be kept in a money market fund until it grows large enough to be invested in other ways by the SLCS investment committee.

Another motion by Sid Lovett was seconded by Blake Ireland and passed by the attendees to accept the plan for the fund management process as outlined in the report. A motion by Bob Rothschild was amended and then seconded by Sid Lovett to the effect that the members of the watershed be invited to voluntarily contribute \$100 a year for 5 years to the Mary Perry Fund but that the final process and details would be left to the Board. It was suggested that \$100 not be a minimum required amount and also that larger donations would be welcome.

Ann Levin suggested that when a letter is written to solicit money, some background on Mary Perry should be included for those who may be new to the Pond and might not be aware of her contributions to WOPWA and its mission.

### **Water level and Dam report.**

Janet Cocchiaro deferred to Selectman Chris Devine who has responsibility for the dam. The town dam fund stands at about \$7000 and an appropriation is added by the town each year. Barry Eastman has been doing repairs and monitoring the level of the dam which must be raised and lowered to control flooding. Barry does not charge the town for his services. This year the summer boards were put in too soon, putting in danger the fish which spawn near the stone

bridge. Barry pulled the boards quickly and the fish were not harmed. The state of NH regards White Oak Pond as a low priority risk dam, which is good.

Blake Ireland offered as background, that when WOPWA gave the town the dam, WOPWA also gave money for maintenance. Soon after ownership was transferred, the State determined that the dam needed to be repaired, using all of the maintenance fund and then some, the difference being paid by the town of Holderness. The Selectmen now allocate town funds to maintain the dam.

Bob Rothschild said that, in an effort to minimize the use of the put-in spot by the dam for motor boats, he has installed boulders. The Rothschilds own the property beside the dam where the access spot is located. Trailering of boats to White Oak could become a safety hazard, which the Rothschild's determined would be their liability following discussions with the State police. It is illegal to put a boat with more than a 7 ½ HP motor onto the lake, whether the motor will be used or not. The Rothschilds would consider a fence with a gate, but the consensus of the meeting was that the boulders are adequate. In addition a right of way must be maintained for the fire department to draw water in a emergency. Canoes, kayaks and trolling motors are welcome on the lake.

Discussion about other access points led to information from George Levin that the access point on Route 3 is the only one listed by NH Fish and Game. (Every lake in NH must have a public access point.) Also, if people begin to enter the lake from other places, it becomes the responsibility of the property owner to post that point as private access on a yearly basis, or over time it could become a de facto public access. The access point on the Levin's property may be used by permission and the Levins post it every year to keep it closed. Cathy Claflin mentioned that there is also an access near the graveyard, but the access is limited to the graveyard and does not include the lake.

### **Water Quality Report**

Nancy Voorhis reported that water quality is usually tested once during every summer month and that a test has been added in the Spring. Another at the time of Summer runoff would be helpful, though that one was not done last year. The baseline data is the 3 summer-month tests. Results for 2007 show no significant changes in WOP. The lake remains between pristine and moderately productive, which is good news. There is internal phosphorus loading, which means it is more vulnerable to damage from external sources, i.e., human impact. What we as residents do does matter, including use of fertilizers, maintaining our septic systems, etc. Sampling near the dump continues to show high levels of conductivity during Spring runoff, so attention needs to be paid there. A high % of cyno-bacteria was noted in June 2007, but it didn't appear in later samples. The biennial water reports are placed on file at the Squam Lakes Association.

The New Hampshire Shoreline Protection Act (SPA) became effective July 1. It restricts various types of activities in various footage increments from the shore. Such things as cutting trees, fertilizing, etc are covered and we should all make ourselves aware of the provisions of the act. Kevin Frank suggested that a copy of the SPA be included in the next mailing from WOPWA. That may not be necessary as the information is available on the DES website and a link will be

included to it from our website. Chris Devine reported that there will be an education outreach program in Holderness on August 6 and this will be posted on various websites and at the post office. He again referred us to a one page summary of the act on the DES website. This act covers protection of the land while the protection of water comes under Wetlands and includes the placement of docks, etc.

In the discussion we learned that an increase in lily pads is not bad, as they are consuming phosphorus and keeping the lake cleaner, and likewise the purple flower we see. Some algae are good and they increase in the summer as the water gets warmer, indicating the rise in phosphorus. The bluegreen algae is bad, and can be toxic to dogs. It is fairly normal in moderate amounts in August, but an excess is not. Nancy Voorhis will put information on bluegreen algae and cyano-bacteria on our website so that we can watch for them.

### **WOPWA Website**

The WOPWA website originally designed by Adam Vicinus, is now under the management of Nancy Voorhis, who has updated it and added some features. She requested that we change the name from [www.whiteoakpond.com](http://www.whiteoakpond.com) to [www.wopwa.org](http://www.wopwa.org) to be more reflective of the organization, which is what it is trying to serve, rather than the Pond. There is a \$75 charge for a name change and a \$72 annual expense. Bob Rothschild moved that we make the name change and approve the yearly expense. It was seconded by Marty Hirsch and passed. Nancy will add a members only, password protected area to the site. Here it will be possible to keep in touch with other members, to learn about what is going on around the pond and to reference a calendar of events. Access will be via our email address, so it is important that we keep our address list up to date. Bob Rothschild moved and Anne Ireland seconded, a motion to add a members only section to the website. The motion passed. Nancy asked for volunteers to give occasional help with the website. Brendan Frank, Susan Levin and Ted VanSant responded.

### **Nominations and Election of Officers**

The president thanked Sara Rothschild and the nominating committee, Marty Hirsch and Lisa Lovett, for their work in providing the slate of officers and new Board members. Those who will conclude their terms of office were thanked. The names of the proposed officers and board members were read.

President – Anne Knight 1<sup>st</sup> year of second two-year term

VP – Ted VanSant – 1<sup>st</sup> year of two-year term

Secretary – Mimzie Uhler - 1<sup>st</sup> one- year term

Treasurer – Will Stratton - 13th one-year term

Marty Hirsch moved approval of officers – Kevin Frank seconded – approved

Board members to be elected:

Members continuing on the board

Nancy McDonald – 1<sup>st</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Sarah Young – 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Anne Ireland, Will Brown, Galen Beach – 2<sup>nd</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> term

New board members to be elected for 1<sup>st</sup> year, 1<sup>st</sup> term

Adam Levin (this was a correction to the list published in the agenda)

Janet Cocchiaro (whose name was inadvertently omitted from the agenda list)

Bob Rothschild, Lois Stratton, Roger Uhler, Chuck Vicinus

Another nomination was made from the floor

Bob Maloney accepted

Moved by Anne Ireland, seconded by Kevin Frank, to elect these Board members; passed.

The standing committees were named;

Water Quality: Galen Beach, Nancy Voorhis

Nominating committee: Lisa Lovett, Marty Hirsch, Sara Rothschild

Mary H. Perry Conservation Committee: Kevin Frank, Bob Rothschild, Bob Maloney

### **Other Business**

Sid Lovett moved that the organization name the dam in honor of George Levin to acknowledge his long commitment and hard work over many years to WOPWA. This was seconded by Rich Cocchiario and unanimously approved. This may be done through the NH House of Representatives, Town of Holderness, and/or a sign at the dam. The Board will pursue the naming of the dam.

Everyone present introduced themselves briefly.

We were reminded to look at the crafts by our members which are on the tables around the room. There is work by Lois Stratton, Jeannie West, Mimzie Uhler and the Stratton's son. Last year the sale of items by members netted \$45.10 for the treasury. Lois was thanked for her efforts in pulling the craft show together.

Reminders:

All officers and board members were reminded to see Anne after the meeting to talk about a date for the next board meeting.

Address changes should be communicated to Anne Ireland.

Nancy MacDonald was thanked for her work in organizing the food for this meeting.

Bob Rothschild asked if there was any interest in pursuing some conservation arrangement with the White Oak Motel, which is currently for sale for just under \$2 million. Bob Rothschild, Doug DeCluett and Rich Cocchiario volunteered to be on a committee to explore this.

**Wildlife sightings:** A sow bear and 3 cubs, a single bear, a juvenile bear, a sow moose and a cub, an otter, coyotes, a mink, wild turkeys, deer, a new beaver lodge behind Franks' Island, a Merganser with 6 chicks, ducks, a loon pair and various other birds and a large unidentified snake on Pine Island. We also learned that the eagles have re-nested on Squam.

A move to adjourn by Rich Cocchiario was seconded by Sara Rothschild and approved at 11:50 a.m.