

WOPWA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES-(Final)
JULY 18, 2009, 10:00 am
Holderness Historical Society Building

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Knight at 10:10 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and the attendees introduced themselves.

Attending were: Anne Knight, Bob Maloney, Janet and Rich Cocchiaro, Galen Beach, Kevin Frank, Kay Beij, Bob Young, Debbie Chase, Blake and Anne Ireland, Joan and Chuck Vicinus, Lili and Bob Young, Lois and Will Stratton, Will Brown, Betsy Falk, Marie Stevenson, Marty and Corinne Hirsch, Roger La Rochelle, Margie and Michael Bogdanow, Anne Levin, Adam Levin, Doug and Beth DeCluett, Ted Van Sant, Nancy Voorhis and daughter Amanda, Roger Wicksman, Nancy McDonald, Bob Rothschild, Virginia Hood, and Mimzie Uhler. A reporter, Marcia Morris, from the Record Enterprise attended the meeting in order to report on conservation easement matters.

President Knight revised the agenda to allow Nancy Voorhis to present the water quality report after the Website report.

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of July 19, 2008 were summarized by the Secretary and the following corrections were noted: under the Water Level and Dam Report, Selectman Chris Devine is liaison from the Town for the dam. The goal for the Mary Perry Conservation Fund (MHPCF) is \$25,000. The minutes were approved as amended, following a motion by Bob Maloney, seconded by Rich Cocchiaro.

Treasurer's Report: Will Stratton

A full copy of the treasurer's report is an addendum to these minutes.

Opening Balance 07/11/2008:	\$ 3256.94
Transfer to Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund:	(\$ 1250.00)
Dues received from 39 members:	\$ 1270.00
Expenses:	(\$ 1589.51)
Closing Balance June 30, 2009	\$ 2154.96

So far this fiscal year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010), \$150 has been collected in dues. \$1250 was transferred to the MHPCF last fall to get it off the ground. The balance in the MHP Conservation Fund is about \$9000. The treasurer recommended that \$250 from the balance in the treasury be transferred to the Fund. It was moved by Janet Cocchiaro, seconded by Rich Cocchiaro and was approved. That brings the total contributed to the Fund by WOPWA to \$1500. Janet Cocchiaro raised a question as to why there is no cost for water sampling in the treasurer's report. The reason is that bills for water sampling in 2008 were paid within the 2009 fiscal year (July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010). Therefore, there will be an unusually high cost in the 2009 report. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report be accepted. The motion was approved.

Membership Report: Lois Stratton

As of June 30 2009, there were 39 dues-paying members. Lois Stratton reported that a mailing has been sent to all those who are thought to be in the Watershed with the purpose of encouraging them to come to this meeting and to join the organization. 120 letters were mailed; 20 came back as undeliverable. This is a much better delivery success rate than we have had with previous mailings. One person may have come to the meeting as a result of the mailing, which is fine, because the objective of the mailing was to raise awareness. Mimzie Uhler has agreed to check the tax files twice a year for changes in property ownership so that we can keep the watershed list up to date. If anyone knows of changes, they should contact Mimzie or Nancy Voorhis, who maintains the database. Ted Van Sant reminded us how much work the database requires. There was a round of applause for

Nancy's work on this project. Lois asked that we remember to pay dues for this year.

WOPWA Website (www.wopwa.org): Nancy Voorhis

Nancy reported that progress has been made on the mailing lists, as noted in Lois' report. Attendees were asked to check the master list and confirm that all information is correct. One of the confusing aspects of our lists is that so many members have two addresses. We should note which is our preferred address. The website has been changed in the past year to more accurately represent the organization. There are two areas of the website which are password protected – 1) forums where people can report wildlife sightings and things of general interest and, 2) a forum for postings of things for rent or sale. Nancy invited all to visit the website. Our first initial followed by last name is the user ID and our email address is the password. We are encouraged to change the password to something that we prefer, and directions for doing that are on the website. If anyone has trouble with the website, we can email Nancy, our webmaster, directly from the website. Already included on the website are pictures and information on the dam naming ceremony from last August. The website will be updated with more information on the Mary Perry Conservation Fund and the historical documentation that Galen Beach has been working on. If anyone has suggestions, they should contact Nancy, as we want to make the website useful to members of the organization.

Water Quality Report; Nancy Voorhis

Nancy reported that our water testing is done under a program of the NH Dept of Environmental Services. The reports are always from last year's samples. Every other year we get a more comprehensive report. The report for 2008 is an interim report and shows no substantial changes from 2007. Nancy reiterated that we must pay attention to fertilizing, cutting trees etc., so as not to cause damage to the lake. There are links on the WOPWA website to get us to tips on what we should and shouldn't do relative to the water and its protection. Bob Maloney asked if there is a concern about the Transfer Station leaching into the pond. Nancy reported that the Transfer Station tributary and the Cocchiario inlet samples showed high levels of conductivity during spring runoff, which is not seen at other points of testing. There is no measurable cause for concern, but we must continue to monitor this. Copies of the reports are on file at the Squam Lakes Association and Chris Devine can direct us to them. A link to the full copy of the 2008 report from DES will be put on the website when it is available.

The Water Quality Committee recommends that we have the state biologist come later in the season (who has traditionally come in June) when the dissolved oxygen has decreased as it does later in the summer and when the biologist can do a deeper test which our testers are unable to do. August would be the preferred time for the biologist to come, but this year he is already scheduled for the end of July, which is better than June. Galen Beach and Nancy are also trying to define sub-watersheds for each stream of the larger WOP watershed. This is another way for us to determine if we are doing a good job of selecting monitoring sites on the lake.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund Status Report: Kevin Frank

Kevin Frank reported that the fall fund drive brought in over \$9000, in spite of many returned envelopes. This puts us well on the way to the goal of \$25,000. Any easements made in 2009 will have 20% of the balance at the end of 2008 available for the person making the easement. At its June meeting, the board approved the plan to send another appeal letter this fall.

Rob Haskell is making a conservation easement and will be the first to benefit from the fund. He was expected to attend this meeting but was delayed. A bell ringing ceremony to thank Rob and Mary Haskell will be held on August 1st around 1:30 pm, hosted by the Squam Lakes conservation Society. All are welcome to join the flotilla to the Haskell island for the event. Blake Ireland offered "taxi service" to the island for anyone who would like to attend. This is the same day as the Squam Lakes Association annual meeting.

Roger La Rochelle, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society (SLCS) reported that 4800 feet (34%) of WOP shoreline is conserved, a very high level of conservation. Kay Beij's easement is the largest conservation easement in the Squam Lake area. The Town of Holderness has acquired a piece of property adjacent to the Haskell property. This piece of land is landlocked and is not even accessible by canoe. The town would like to figure out a use for it, but others feel it should be left alone. Roger La Rochelle mentioned other easements underway in the Squam Lake area, but not on White Oak Pond. WOP has been chosen as a possible model for a study on how the pond, or other similar ones, might be used as a conserved water resource for the future. Nancy McDonald inquired about the cost of putting a piece of property into conservation. The average cost is \$4000 to \$6000. SLCS tries to take the burden off of landowners to make it as easy as possible to do this. WOPWA was complimented on how well we are doing. Roger La Rochelle was thanked for his report. Kevin Frank pointed out the greater Squam watershed map which Roger brought and hung on the wall for us to look at. It differs from the smaller one we received in the Mary Perry Conservation Fund appeal mailing because it shows more properties that have been conserved.

Water Level & Dam Report: Janet Cocchiaro

Anne Knight thanked Janet for doing the planting around the Commemorative Plaque at the dam. It was noted that the adhesive used to mount the plaque last fall interacted with the bronze of the plaque, causing it to disintegrate. A better adhesive has now been applied.

Janet reported that there has been lots of water this spring and summer, requiring the dam to be opened multiple times to lower the water in the Pond. Bob Rothschild reported that he will probably put up a split rail fence or something similar to keep large boats from gaining access to White Oak Pond. Bob Maloney asked for clarification about whether a motor larger than 7 ½ hp can be on a boat if it is not used. The Revised Statute Authority (RSA) is the arbiter of this. No motor larger than 7 ½ hp is allowed on the lake, as stated on the sign at the access point. Access to the water must be provided and we welcome kayaks and canoes. There is no legitimate access point off Coxboro Road. The Levin property has no public access, and that is posted every year.

Anne Levin reported that George misses being at White Oak Pond, but is doing OK.

WOPWA Documents and Holderness Historical Society: Anne Knight

Anne reported that we are holding this meeting at the Historical Society without charge. Our original documents are stored in a file cabinet here, but much of the material is, or will be, available on the website. The building is open on summer Saturdays from 11 – 1, and we are invited to visit. Access to our files at other times is available by appointment. Galen was thanked for all the work she has done scanning the documents and placing them on CDs.

Election of Officers & WOPWA Board Members: Ted Van Sant

Because there were few changes on the board or in the officers, the Board handled the nominations this year. Ted Van Sant went over the list of officers. It was moved by Anne Ireland, seconded by acclamation and approved that the following officers remain for the coming year.

President	Anne Knight
Vice President	Ted Van Sant
Secretary	Mimzie Uhler
Treasurer	Will Stratton

The only change to the Board of Directors is that Sarah Young completes her allowed two terms. She was thanked for her work. Current remaining Members for 2009 -10 are: Nancy McDonald (2nd year 2nd term), Adam Levin, Bob Rothschild, Lois Stratton, Roger Uhler, Janet Cocchiaro, Chuck Vicinus, Bob Maloney (all 2nd year, 1st term). Ted then read the proposed slate of Board members. Members were reminded that we have no limit on the number of Board members, and were encouraged to

nominate someone or to volunteer themselves. There being no additions. Galen Beach moved, Bob Rothschild seconded and the following Board members were approved: Anne Ireland, Will Brown, Galen Beach (both 1st year, 2nd term)

It was noted that the Standing Committee for Water Quality is in place but that we currently have no one on the Nominating Committee. Anne Knight asked for suggestions for members of the Nominating Committee; at present everyone is the nominating committee, and were invited to submit names for future Board membership. She reminded us that next year we will need to elect a President.

Board Member Will Brown was congratulated on his recent marriage.

Presentation on the Declining Loon Population on Squam Lake

Galen Beach substituted for Harry Vogel of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) who was unable to attend. Squam Lake has experienced significant reproductive failure in the loon population during recent years. The researchers are trying to determine the causes. Testing of the recovered eggshells, livers etc., has shown that contaminants figure prominently in the tissues. In particular high levels of PCB's have been noted, but it is not known if they are responsible, or partly responsible for the reproductive failure. PCB's are very stable products that were used in the past as high temperature coolants such as in electrical transformers. PCB's are ubiquitous in our environment, and are impossible to prevent. Among other possible related causes are the Buzzards Bay oil spill and the 2008 early freeze on Squam. The report is available on www.loon.org. A link will be provided on our website. It needs to be determined if the contaminants the loons are picking up are local or if they come from somewhere else the loons have visited, or from rainfall. Increased testing on White Oak Pond will add to the cost. The Board approved some additional expenditure for this and the LPC may help offset some of the cost. We may soon get a full report on an egg from 2005 that was left because the water level decreased so the loons couldn't reach the nest.

The LPC is seeking any anecdotal information on loon activity on White Oak Pond, such as: how many loons we see, and what behavior we have observed. The loon egg that was laid on WOP in 2009 was attacked by some bird or animal. It is now unlikely that there will be another egg on WOP this year. Education of the public is needed so that people will avoid loon nesting areas. It is difficult to keep people away from the loons without calling attention to them. There is a need to encourage a culture of respect for the loons. It is possible to test for whether the lake's health and biosystem have changed by changing the levels and type of testing to look for specific things like PCB's. We can help by turning in small mouth bass or perch 6 inches or more in length to the LPC. We must freeze them, and LPC will pick the frozen fish for testing.

We have been asked to stay away from a loon on a nest because the loon may leave the nest unguarded while trying to distract an intruder, leaving the nest open to predators. Because loon nests are susceptible to fluctuations in water level, man-made rafts may be preferable. Nesting rafts can be put up but funds are limited.

Other Business

It was moved by Anne Ireland, seconded by Bob Rothschild, and approved by the members, that we continue membership in the New Hampshire Lakes Association by contributing dues of \$300 for the year.

The question of a WOPWA donation to the LPC was raised. Will Stratton responded that it is more tax efficient to donate individually. We will try to determine whether we can designate our gifts for the specific purpose of a raft on WOP. When it is determined how much a raft would cost, it will be posted on the website in the member area.

In a discussion about notifying the WOPWA membership of news and meetings via email and

website, it was decided that not everyone is ready to give up paper copies, and that we should indicate our preferred method of contact on the website.

Following a discussion of an optimum date for the next Annual Meeting, it was decided that the 3rd weekend in July works as well as any, in order not to conflict with other organization meetings in August. The date of July 19 was approved for the 2010 meeting.

Wildlife Sightings

The following sightings were reported: among the four-legged creatures, a young bear was seen on WOP Road, as many as five moose, a bobcat, several mink, raccoons and a red fox have been sighted. Birds sighted include a belted kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, and an indigo bunting. Roger La Rochelle spoke of concern for the white suckerfish because they are being taken by the hundreds for fertilizer just on the other side of Route 3 from the Levin Dam during the spring spawning time just after ice-out. These fish help clean the lake and those who are taking them are trespassing on the Mill Brook Stream property. If we see activity of that nature we should report it to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society.

Recognition of Honored Guest

Larry Mowbray, Postmaster of the Town of Holderness for the past 22 years, was recognized and thanked for his service on behalf of WOPWA and to all of us as individuals, in advance of his retirement in the fall. (At that time there will be a Town celebration). We agreed it is more pleasant and more personal to go to the Holderness Post Office than to any other post office, where no one knows us. A gift of power bars was given to keep him energized while biking, and a New Hampshire baseball cap to remind him of his roots in NH. Larry's wife, Claire, was also recognized. Larry responded with a few remarks and he reminded us that he will be coming back to Holderness each summer. A number of attendees added their own comments, and a round of applause was given.

Adjournment

Anne Knight reminded us to register our opinions on the elements of the Annual Meeting – coffee hour, the potluck lunch, the time of the meeting, etc., so that the Board can decide on the format for next year's meeting. Nancy MacDonald was thanked for her work on organizing today's lunch.

There was a unanimous motion for adjournment for the potluck lunch and the Art and Crafts show by some of the WOPWA members.

The Treasurer's Report follows on a separate page.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimzie Uhler, Secretary

WHITE OAK POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION (WOPWA)

TREASURER'S REPORT FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2008 – JUNE 30, 2009

Opening Balance		\$ 3,256.94
Transfer to M H Perry Fund		<u>(1,250.00)</u>
Balance in Operating Fund		\$ 2,006.94
Operating Revenues		
Dues	\$1,270.00	
Craft Sales	66.30	
Interest	1.23	
Town of Holderness	<u>400.00</u>	
Total	1,737.53	<u>\$1,737.53</u>
Operating Expenses		
NH Lakes Assn.	300.00	
G.H. Levin Plaque	740.28	
Income Tax	46.00	
MHP Fund Mailing	176.05	
Administration	<u>327.18</u>	
Total	\$1,589.51	<u>(1,589.51)</u>
Closing Balance		<u>\$ 2,154.96</u>

Memo: Operating surplus: \$148.02

Dues: 1 @ \$100; 13 @ \$50; 2 @ \$25; 9 @ \$15; 1 @ \$10 = \$1,279 39 members

Will Stratton, Treasurer