

WOPWA ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 17, 2010, 9:00 AM
Holderness Historical Society Building
---Final---

The meeting was called to order by President Anne Knight at 9:10 a.m. Members and guests were welcomed and then introduced themselves.

Attending were: Ted Vansant, Anne Knight, Mimzie Uhler, Nancy McDonald, Will Stratton, Adam Levin, Galen Beach, Lois Stratton, Bonnie Hunt, Chuck Vicinus, Nancy Voorhis and daughter Amanda, Kevin Frank, Sid Lovett, Corinne and Marty Hirsch, Anne Levin, Marie Stevenson, Bob Maloney, Janet Cocchiaro, Doug DeCluett, Campbell and Eileen Lovett, Bill and Martha Southard, Roger LaRoche, Will Brown, Blake and Anne Ireland. Latecomers included Jean West, Roger Uhler, Lew Knight.

Everyone present was asked to please check the individually addressed forms for the correctness of the information and to pay dues today or send them to the Holderness Post Office, Box 565.

On the occasion of presiding over her last meeting as president of WOPWA, Anne Knight presented a message summarizing the accomplishments and events of the organization during the four years of her tenure. Water quality has been maintained, conservation efforts have expanded, the Mary H. Perry Fund has been established and is growing. We held a ceremony to name the dam in honor of George Levin, and to dedicate a plaque there. We have also expanded efforts to recruit new members, changed the annual meeting from August to July, and moved the annual meeting to the Holderness Historical Society, with whom we now have a partnership in that it houses our records. A partnership has also been established with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society. Our website is well maintained by Nancy Voorhis and is both active and inviting with photos and information. A database of residents of the watershed is progressing. Anne concluded by saying that the progress will continue under the leadership of Bob Maloney and with the continuing efforts of all members of the organization.

Anne was thanked for her dedication during the past four years and was given a round of applause for her outstanding work.

The Minutes of the July 18, 2009 Annual Meeting which are posted on the website were approved. No corrections to the minutes had been reported during the time they were available on the web.

Treasurer's Report: Will Stratton

A full copy of the 2009 – 2010 Treasurer's report as amended is an addendum to these minutes. Will noted the following corrections: Total revenue should read \$1164.73. The excess of expenses over revenue should read \$146.65. The closing balance is therefore \$1768.31. Will reported that the excess of expenses over income is not a concern, due to the payment of two year's worth of expenses for water sampling.

There were thirty eight dues paying members for the 2009 – 2010 year.

Contributions to the Mary H. Perry Fund amounted to \$13,100, representing 34 contributions. With interest earned for the year, the fund stands at \$13,359.78. Kevin Frank moved and Bob Maloney seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Membership Report: Lois Stratton

Lois reported that the number of members of the organization fluctuates from year to year. In the year ending June 30, 2009 there were 39 dues paying members, while in the year ending June 30, 2010 there were 38. In the previous several years the number has been between 34 and 39. Our objective should be to have that number rise each year. It was emphasized that the surest way to encourage membership is by personal contact. Everyone present was encouraged to talk about WOPWA and to point out the reasons for belonging. Bonnie Hunt reported that she had lived here for a few years before she even knew the organization existed. It is important to remember that WOPWA is not only for those living on the pond itself, but for the entire watershed. In fact, those living in the watershed, yet not on the lake itself, can sometimes have a greater impact on the lake than those on it. Anne reminded the attendees that a flyer was prepared a few years ago which listed the advantages of being part of WOPWA, even for those not living on the pond. It can be found on the website. Nancy Voorhis suggested sending a copy of the draft of the minutes of this meeting to potential members when the next mailing is prepared. This was referred to the board for discussion at the August board meeting.

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

Nancy asked for suggestions, now or later, for things that might improve the website. There are a small number of people who go to the website and that number should grow. The hits are higher in summer. The forum pages, which are in the Member Area and are restricted, are not being used. This may be because people forget how to log in, so Nancy repeated that the login is our first initial and last name, and that the password is our email address. We should all make an effort to visit the website once in a while. Janet Cocchiario stated that the website is wonderful and there was a round of applause for Nancy and her work. Nancy asked that photos of the lake and the watershed, for use on the website, be sent to her, and suggested that perhaps we should have a photo contest.

Anne asked the membership to consider whether information on rentals should be added to the website. Members could post details of their properties and dates for which they seek renters. The capability for this is already available in the protected area, and we discussed moving it to the general part of the website along with adding our wildlife sightings to the general area. It was approved to add the wildlife to the unprotected area. Information on and pictures of items which members would like to sell, including crafts will also be in the public area, but rental information will remain protected. The seller can be contacted by an email address or link to a website which should be included in the posting.

Water Quality Report: Nancy Voorhis and Galen Beach (This item was moved from later in the agenda)

Nancy began with a synopsis of the extensive report we receive every two years from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The summary will be posted on the website. Nancy and Galen share the work of water sampling equally, and conduct 3 samplings each summer. Spring runoff is sampled at the tributaries, and if problems show up in the results, those areas are retested later. There were no issues last year, and historically there have been no statistically significant changes since monitoring began in 1997, and, for a naturally aging pond, White Oak is in relatively good health. As residents of the watershed, we can keep it that way by being aware of and following the guidelines of the Shoreline Protection Act, which is available at <http://nh.des.gov>.

The Transfer Station tributary continues to cause concern because of its high conductivity, and a statistical analysis of that factor is not included in the report we receive. The committee plans to begin sampling that tributary further upstream to try to determine the source of the problem. Low levels of oxygen in the lake at summer's end has prompted a test in July to determine if this is an end of summer occurrence only, or if the levels are low at other times as well.

Galen added that hot weather increases algae growth, and the possible choking of the pond. There is good news in that the pond seems to have no Millfoil so far, but we must continue to be alert for it. It was recommended that we participate in the Weed Watcher program, volunteers who are trained to identify and report on the weeds in the pond twice a year. Roger Uhler volunteered to become a Weed Watcher, and anyone is invited to report their observations to him. Specimens of questionable plant growth can be taken to SLA for identification.

Galen and Nancy are happy to have others join them on their sampling expeditions, but they often do it at the last minute. They will try to plan further ahead to accommodate other volunteers who would like to learn the process. Anyone who is interested should be in touch with Galen or Nancy.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund Status Report: Kevin Frank and Bob Maloney

Kevin explained that the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund is a statement to the world that WOPWA endorses conservation and we care about protecting the pond. We want to encourage further use of the Fund. It is important to note that some of the most important easements are in the watershed but not on the pond. We are allied with the Squam Lakes Conservation Society in this effort. Roger LaRochelle of SLCS takes time to explain the process to interested people and is able to tweak it for various needs. There will continue to be a yearly appeal until the fund reaches a total of \$25,000. 20% of the fund can be used to defray the costs of conservation for any given applicant, and payments are made in a timely manner directly to vendors. Two applicants in a single year would each be entitled to 20%. A line will be added to the membership form to indicate a contribution to the MHPCF.

Squam Lakes Conservation Society Comments/Announcements: Roger LaRochelle. Roger reported that there are currently seven conservation easements in the watershed, and several others are underway. It is a long process. The current priority of the SLCS is the Squam Range in the Squam Lake watershed. Roger brought postcards announcing the annual meeting of SLCS on August 21, which we are invited to attend. Now in its 50th year, SLCS is hoping to create a National Historic District for the Squam Lakes area, based on the tradition of conservation and the early camps around the lakes. He also announced that White Oak Pond is one of a group of water bodies included in a study of lake usage in New Hampshire.

There are currently \$52 million in property for sale in the SLCS area. This reflects the changes that occur periodically as families change generations.

There is still a concern about the white suckerfish which are being taken from Mill Brook stream during their spawning time just after ice-out. If we see people taking them in great quantities we should ask them to please be judicious in how many they take, as they are of value to the lake and should not be depleted. There is a sign on the trail that goes down from Route 3.

The Dam and Water Level The water level in White Oak Pond has remained consistent and the boards are being inserted and removed in a timely manner. Janet Cocchiaro reported that the flowers in front of the Levin Plaque were destroyed by exhaust from fire trucks while they were being filled with lake water. Janet will report the problem to the Fire Chief and ask that they park further away from the plaque.

Report on Loons No one from the Loon Preservation Committee could attend our meeting as it conflicts with the LPC Festival. LPC did report to us that two loon eggs have been destroyed by predators. Kevin said he saw two last week, so that may have been just before they were destroyed, or perhaps there is another nest. Kevin described where the nest is located. The manmade loon raft is new on the pond this year, thanks to the efforts of Janet Cocchiaro. It is in the same vicinity as the nest but is not being used.

Nominations and Election of Officers and Board Members: Ted Vansant

Officers	President	Bob Maloney
	Vice President	Ted Vansant
	Secretary	Mimzie Uhler
	Treasurer	Will Stratton

No other names were placed in nomination. Nancy Voorhis moved that the officer slate be accepted. The motion was approved.

Board of Directors:

Members leaving the Board: Nancy McDonald, Adam Levin

Members continuing on the Board

Bob Rothschild, Roger Uhler, Janet Cocchiaro, Chuck Vicinus, Lois Stratton (1st year 2nd term)

Anne Ireland, Will Brown, Galen Beach, (2nd year 2nd term)

Members to be elected for 1st Term:

Anne Levin, Kathy Weymouth

As there were no other nominations, Will Stratton moved that the slate of board members be approved. The motion carried.

Standing Committees: President Anne Knight asked for volunteers for the two standing committees required by the By-laws; Water Quality and the Nominating Committee. Suggestions or volunteers were requested for the Water Quality Committee to join Nancy Voorhis and Galen Beach, and for the Nominating Committee. No one volunteered. Nancy Vansant moved and Kevin seconded a motion that the Board of Directors be the Nominating Committee with authority to recruit others to help. The motion was approved.

Other Business

The meeting approved the payment of \$300 to the New Hampshire Lakes Association, a lobbying organization. The Board recommended at its June meeting that a one time donation of \$250 be made to the Loon Preservation Committee in appreciation for the loon raft. A motion by Ted Vansant to accept the Board's recommendation was seconded by Nancy Voorhis and was passed.

Mimzie Uhler has been working on identifying all the watershed property owners. She asked for a volunteer who would be willing to work on the properties that are in Center Harbor, for which there are no maps online. Nancy McDonald volunteered.

A series of unsupervised, noisy teenage parties which were observed by several people around the pond have stopped. The property owners where the parties took place were not present when the parties were held. Anne Knight spoke to a son of the owner. Among other things a large number of aluminum cans were found in the lake. Any group of teenagers on the pond should be supervised. We should all ask our guests to be respectful of the lake and of other residents. The residents of White Oak Pond Road planned to continue the discussion.

Wildlife Sightings Two eagle chicks fledged two weeks ago from the nest on Squam Lake. Several single bears have been spotted and they seem to be accustomed to people. A bear with 3 cubs was also seen. The Vicinus house had an invasion of about 50 bats and 5 or 6 flying squirrels, which were encouraged to vacate the premises by a qualified "batman." Mosquitoes have been fewer this year because of the dry Spring season. There are a lot of deer flies. A large moose was seen in the Brown's field, and another below the post office. Other sightings included fox, mink, coyote, black water snake, osprey, blue heron, a geriatric pickerell, some really big fish and a snapping turtle.

Anne Knight was thanked once again for her leadership and Nancy McDonald was thanked for so ably organizing the food for this meeting.

Following a motion by Kevin Frank, a second by Nancy Voorhis, and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 to enjoy the pot luck lunch and the Arts and Crafts Show.

The Treasurer's Report follows on a separate page.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimzie Uhler, Secretary