

WOPWA Board Meeting
Minutes
Final (approved August 26, 2011)

June 25th, 2011
Hunt-Maloney Home

The Board was welcomed with coffee, tea and homemade muffins and scones.
The meeting was called to order 9:05 AM by President, Bob Maloney.

Any changes to the minutes of the Board meeting of August 28, 2010 were requested. There were none and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report - Will Stratton

The opening balance on July 1, 2010 was \$ 1758. Dues of \$1280 were collected. This was more than the last fiscal year and represents 43 memberships. Miscellaneous income was \$31.02, Spending was \$1035.20, for a closing balance of \$2034.13. There are a few late expenses including \$160 for water sampling which will be paid before the final report for the annual meeting.

The Mary H. Perry Fund (MHP) began the year with \$13,359. Contributions during the year were \$2275, earnings were \$452. for a closing balance of \$16,086.74. There were no payouts. The fund is managed by SLCS as part of several funds, mostly invested in a less aggressive Vanguard short term bond fund. The board members were very pleased with the investment results, far in excess of current money market funds.

The Treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

Database and Website - Nancy Voorhis presented her report on the Database, which is a **Membership List** (hereafter the List). A current list of members was passed out. The Membership List information is compiled from information submitted on the membership form filled out when dues are paid. At the annual meeting, forms with the information we have will again be given to attendees. They should make additions or corrections and the List will be updated. The list of property owners is larger and is available on request from Nancy. A password protected area of the website will be set up which can be accessed by Board members only. Verifying the property owner list should only need to be done once a year, after we have established an updated base. Mimzie has worked on the property owner list over the last year but it needs to be updated again and Mimzie would like help with this. Kathy Weymouth volunteered to take this over. Nancy, Mimzie & Kathy will meet to go over the process. Nancy Voorhis will continue to maintain the List.

The WOPWA Website www.wopwa.org is maintained by Nancy Voorhis who adds and changes things as necessary. She asked that information which should be on the website be sent to her in a timely manner. Bob will make sure Nancy gets the final minutes of each meeting. A draft of the minutes is sent to the entire board. After one week, during which changes and corrections may be sent to the secretary, the minutes will be finalized and put on the website. All documents must be clearly marked as to their status – draft, pending approval, final, etc. The annual meeting minutes must be posted as a draft until they are approved at the following annual meeting.

Nancy requested a copy of the Mary H. Perry Fund donor card so it can be posted. Bob will take care of that.

Bob expressed the thanks of the entire membership for the continuing and outstanding service

provided by Nancy.

Membership - Lois Stratton_ We discussed the value of a direct personal contact as the best method of recruiting new memberships. Lois has designed a new, simpler 3-fold flyer that can be given to potential members. These will be given out, 3 per member, at the annual meeting, for use in approaching potential members. Money is not the issue. We are eager to have people as members in order to be part of the organization and become aware of issues regarding the lake. Bob announced that he recruited Jude Ruhm of Shepard Hill Road as a new member.

It was decided to use a mailing again this year to announce the annual meeting. Bob will finalize the agenda, make up the announcement and see that Lois gets those for reproduction and mailing. Lois will include the new membership flyer and see that the envelopes are mailed. Nancy Voorhis will supply the mailing labels. Email as a method of announcing the meeting received a mixed response because many people do not use it. Post cards were felt to be inadequate for the purpose.

Special Guest - Holderness Police Dept. Officer Seth Learned from the Town of Holderness Police was invited to speak to the board by President Bob Maloney in response several recent break-ins in the area. There have been seven reported burglaries in Holderness. These appear to be opportunistic break-ins by local addicts in need of drug money. One person had about \$6,500 worth of goods taken, but mostly the value has been relatively small. Often the goods are taken to Tilton to be pawned, indicating the desire on the part of the thieves to get money quickly, even if it doesn't represent the value of the goods. The drugs of choice are Oxycontin and Crystal Meth. Joint efforts by the communities of Plymouth, Ashland, Holderness and Tilton, and cooperation with area pharmacies, where the drugs are purchased with bogus prescriptions, have resulted in some suspects being detained. None of the break-ins have occurred while the home was occupied.

Officer Learned reported that the town of Holderness offers free vacant house checks at no charge. Names and addresses are not published, but a number is assigned and the properties are checked frequently at random times. The actual number of checks on a property can be obtained from the police department.

Some preventive measures were suggested.

- ⑩ Lock your doors when you are out.
- ⑩ Use dead bolts.
- ⑩ Motion sensor exterior lights.
- ⑩ Security signs (whether you have an actual system or not).
- ⑩ Interior lights on timers
- ⑩ Actual security systems (like ADT)

If threatened, homeowners are within their rights to defend themselves and their property. A one page list of things that people can do will be prepared from this list by Janet for distribution at the annual meeting.

Water Quality Update

Galen Beach reported that there has been little change in water quality since last year. Conductivity is generally reduced, but the dump tributary is often high. Acid is moderate, there is more turbidity, mostly due to pollen. There are the beginnings of cyanobacteria blooms. All of these factors fluctuate and all are understandable. There is a ten-year report. In spite of cutbacks in state funding, and in particular to the Volunteer Lake Protection Program, the Plymouth DES lab will continue to do our testing. A biologist will continue to come to the lake for one of the three testings, but may be more difficult to schedule. Galen thanked Will Brown and Ted for putting in the loon raft, but so far there has been no activity there.

New water monitors are needed to be trained to take the burden off of Galen and Nancy. Will Brown volunteered. The tester(s) need to pick up the test kit, do the testing and return the kit to the Plymouth lab the same day.

Bob reported that he has gone out to observe the testing and also that White Oak Pond is a great pond for fishing.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund

Bob reported that we have our first actual request for money from the fund, from Rob Haskell, which has necessitated a review of the procedure and the possible implementation of some changes. A more definitive procedure for the request and disbursement of funds must now be addressed. The tax benefit is dependent on the appraisal, which is expensive. A revised procedure will be presented at the annual meeting. The procedure will include documentation from the organization accepting the easement that everything has been done. It is also necessary to make sure in advance that all parties are aware of what is needed in order to receive reimbursement. The Mary H. Perry committee will meet with Roger LaRochelle to determine that portion of the cost needed for the easement aside from those costs associated with the tax benefits for the benefit of the land owner.

A motion to approve the reimbursement to Rob which was agreed upon was approved unanimously by the board.

Dam Update Janet reported that the level of the dam naturally fluctuates and the water has recently been high due to rain. Barry Eastman makes adjustments to the dam level as he feels they are necessary to protect the road.

Historical Documents and Holderness Historical Society Status

Galen will see that the remaining documents in her possession are stored at the Historical Society, and Bob Maloney will take those he received from Anne Knight there as well.

Nominating Committee –

Roger Uhler volunteered to serve as the nominating committee. If anyone has suggestions for potential board members, please contact him. The attendees at the annual meeting will also be asked if any of them would like to volunteer to serve on the board. The current officers and board members who may serve another term all agreed to continue. It was noted that it is good to get new people on the board.

A grid of the positions, length of term and number of terms will be prepared. Bob will get the basic information from Anne Knight and Roger will prepare the grid. The water monitors are not board members but simply continue to serve as long as they are willing.

Annual Meeting July 23

The rental agreement for the meeting has been signed. Since we are meeting at the Historical Society there is no need for a backup date. Some changes will be made to Bob's preliminary agenda for the annual meeting. The board decided to eliminate the pot luck lunch this year and start with a social time at 8:30 AM. The meeting will start at 9:00, and should end by 11:00. There will be an arts and crafts display and sale. Mimzie will organize it. All artists and crafters who would like to participate should contact her and that should be noted on the meeting announcement. Nancy McDonald is organizing the refreshments for the meeting. Harry Vogel (Loon Preservation) and Roger La Rochelle (SLCS) will both be there to speak.

New Business

Bob would like to organize a Fishing Derby For Children 14 and under so that children in the watershed get an opportunity to enjoy the lake, gaining access through the owners of several properties on the lake. He will bring this topic up at the annual meeting.

The question of the legality of lead sinkers was discussed. Any hook 1 inch or less in length is illegal for lead sinkers. Larger ones are not, due to the large lobby of the bass fishermen, for whom the cost of an alternative would be moderately higher. As a lake association, we could issue a resolution that no lead sinkers may be used on White Oak Pond. The legality of using them is another issue, but this may provide an educational opportunity for the fishing derby or for people wanting to fish on WOP.

Request for Funds: New Hampshire Lakes & Loon Preservation Committee

The board approved the annual contributions of \$300 to the New Hampshire Lakes Association and \$250 to the Loon Preservation Committee.

Other Business

It was suggested that there be some sort of memorial to Chuck Vicinus. A discussion of this will be added to the annual meeting agenda. Joan Vicinus has suggested that contributions in his honor be made to the Squam Lakes Conservation Society.

Kathy Weymouth suggested that Reggie Pettit of Holderness School be contacted about having his students help with water sampling. He has done this with his students as a science project. Kathy will speak to him and ask him to contact Galen.

Questions about retention and preservation of documents was raised. All should be taken to the historical society and store there until someone can go through them all with a clear understanding of a retention policy. Much of our documentation has already been converted to CDs.

The board agreed that we should have something available about White Oak Pond during the Holderness 250th anniversary celebration. The membership flyers and a poster would be appropriate to advertise WOPWA. Tink Taylor should be contacted to clarify what we can do and where.

A move to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Mimzie Uhler, Secretary