

WHITE OAK POND WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
July 16, 2016
Holderness Historical Society

FINAL - last modified 8/2/16
(approved at 7/29/17 Annual Meeting)

The meeting was called to order at 9am by President Bob Maloney. All were welcomed.

Meeting Attendees: Bob Maloney, Kevin Frank, Will Stratton, Lois Stratton, Anne Knight, Kathy Weymouth, Nancy Isikoff, Bruce Falby, Mimzie Uhler, Roger Uhler, Sara Rothchild, Bob Rothschild, Nancy Voorhis, Joan Vicinus, Sid Lovett, Walter Johnson, Roger LaRochelle (SLCS), Arianne Fosdick, Anne Ireland, Blake Ireland, Galen Beach, Marie Stevenson, Margie Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Anne Levin, Janet Cocchiaro, Susan Levin, Caryn McHose, Keith Hopper, Steven Cohen, Sarah Simpson, Eileen Lovett, Thomas Hopper, Gus Fish and Dee Hopper

Annual Meeting Minutes

The July 25, 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved with one correction – in the Water Quality Report “Fluoride” should be changed to “Chloride.”

Guest Speaker – Roger LaRochelle, Executive Director Squam Lakes Conservation Society

Roger presented an overview of the purpose and importance of conservation land. He reported that presently there are more than 10 million acres in conservation land in this country – more than the National Park System. In the Squam Lake Watershed, of which White Oak Pond is the 3rd largest body of water, 26% of the shoreline is protected through conservation, a total of 126 properties. The present focus of the Conservation Society is the uplands with a vision to be able to hike from Squam Lake to Mt. Washington completely on conservation land.

Treasurer’s Report – Will Stratton

Will reported that this year was a record breaking year with 47 paying members. Beginning balance was \$2,393.50, revenue was \$1,795.26, expenses totaled \$1,821.56 for a loss of \$26.30 and an ending balance of \$2,376.20. For details see the attached Treasurer’s Report which was approved as submitted. Will was thanked for his many years of service as the Treasurer to WOPWA.

Water Quality Report – Nancy Voorhis

Nancy reported that there has been no significant change to the water quality – elevated conductivity continues at the East Holderness Road and transfer station test sites. She suggested WOPWA work with the town to analyze and work on this issue. At this time, it does not seem that the water drawdown last fall affected the water quality. Everyone was encouraged to read the full report that is posted on the web site. Nancy reported that the testing went smoothly - thanks to the Irelands who donated the boat motor.

Membership and Updates – Lois Stratton

Lois requested that everyone encourage their neighbors to become members citing the positive effects of the organization – sharing common interests, maintaining water quality and thusly the beauty of the pond, expanding conservation efforts and partnering with other organizations with similar objectives. She has distributed brochures to the Holderness Post Office, Squam Lake Market Place, Squam Lakes Conservation Society, White Oak Motel, Squam Lakes Association, Squam Lakes Natural Science Center, Squam Boat Livery, Yankee Trail Motel, Peabody and Smith Realty, Golden Pond Market, Walter’s Basin, Holderness Library, the boat put-in, Squam Lake Inn, Holderness Transfer Station and the Little Church Theater. It was decided that since blast mailings are not effective membership reminders were sent in June by email to existing members.

Anne Knight will be taking over as Membership Chairperson. She reminded everyone to complete the registration forms. Those not completed will be mailed. Anne also thanked Nancy Voorhis for keeping the web site updated.

It was suggested to put a donation box by the dam/put-in. Bob M., Roger and Sarah will pursue this idea.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund Update – Bob Maloney

Kevin Frank gave a quick overview of how the fund was started in his mother’s honor as a memorial. Presently the fund is at \$15,856 with a goal of \$25,000. The purpose of the fund is to financially assist those families completing a conservation easement. It offers a landowner up to 20% of the existing fund towards the costs associated with the conservation process. Thus far two landowners have received financial assistance.

Open Discussion from Members

Dam Maintenance - Dam repairs were satisfactorily completed last fall after a long delay. Barry Eastman has resigned as caretaker and Kevin Coburn, DPW has been assigned to take over. Kevin has been monitoring the level of the dam daily and has been surprised at how quickly it changes. He is committed

to keeping the level constant and to not let out the dam without first notifying WOPWA. There is no intent to draw down the dam for another 3 to 5 years.

Loon Banding – Last Thursday evening, Galen accompanied the biologist and others from the Loon Preservation Society to band the loons. They were able to capture the male adult and the 2 chicks. Galen held one of the chicks in her lap as they worked with the adult. Although the adult did struggle some, they were able to draw blood, take some measurements and band him. The chicks were too young to band and it was getting too late in the evening so they did not pursue the female. The loons were released and subsequently have been seen all together.

By-Laws – Bob explained that the organization is currently living outside the by-laws since many board members are serving more than the 2 consecutive terms allowed. He will draft recommended amendments, have it reviewed by an attorney and will send it out to the membership for review. The draft will then be voted on at next year’s annual meeting.

Nomination and Election of Officers and Board Members

Officers – Nominated by the board

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| President: | Bob Maloney | 2 nd year, 3 rd term |
| Vice President: | Kevin Frank | 1 st year, 3 rd term |
| Secretary: | Dolores Hopper | 2 nd year, 1 st term |
| Treasurer: | Walter Johnson | 1 st year, 1 st term |

There were no further nominations. Lois Stratton seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Board of Directors – Nominated by the board.

Members leaving the board: Judy Ruhm, Will Brown, Marty Hirsch

Members continuing on the board: Bruce Falby, Roger Uhler, Susan Levin, Margie Bogdanow

New members on the board as nominated by the board: Anne Knight, Joan Vicinus, Walter Johnson, Lois Stratton, Janet Cocchiaro

There were no further nominations. Motion passed.

Other Business:

Weed Watchers – everyone should be watching for unwanted weeds. Any unknown weed can be brought to SLA for testing. On July 30th from 9 to 11 am, SLA will be weed watching on White Oak Pond. Those interested should meet at the dam at 9.

Contributions – presently WOPWA contributes:

New Hampshire Lakes Association: \$300 (dues)

Loon Preservation Center: \$100

Holderness Historical Society: \$100

Squam Lakes Conservation Society: \$100

There was much discussion about the benefits of donating to these organizations while there is also concern voiced about wanting to keep expenses down. We were reminded that the NH Lakes Association is the only group that represents our efforts in the Legislature and we should continue to pay the dues. It was pointed out that our budget is doing fine. Perhaps there should be a consideration of how our relationship with these organizations could be different. There was a suggestion that we look into cross-board membership.

Barn Dance – Janet Cocchiaro is planning a Barn Dance at the Fisher Barn on Friday 8/5/16 from 7 – 9:30 pm featuring the band “Postage Due” to help raise money for the Mary Perry Fund. Suggested donation is \$10. Everyone was encouraged to attend. Notices will be posted around town.

Fireworks – Nancy stated that fireworks on the lake do have a negative impact on the flora and fauna. White Oak Motel occasionally does have fireworks display. Bob R. offered to compose a letter to send to them.

New Business:

Wildlife Sightings – black bears, mergansers.

Lakefront Properties – it was suggested that when major work is to be done on the waterfront, there be consideration by the homeowners of how the change would impact neighbors. It was recommended that there be a non-binding resolution of WOPWA members that there is a commitment to preserving the beauty of the pond. Bob M., Bob R. and Roger U. will work on drafting a resolution.

Holderness Library – Bob R. mentioned that the library is going to have a major renovation – doubling its size and asked members to please consider making a donation to this worthwhile cause.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores C. Hopper
Secretary

