

White Oak Pond Watershed Association

Annual Meeting minutes

July 25, 2020

Via Zoom

Last Modified 7/28/2020

Approved at Annual Meeting - 7/24/2021

President Margie Bogdanow called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. All were welcomed.

Meeting Attendees: Galen Beach, Margie Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Herb Brown, Will Brown Janet Cocchiaro, Steve Cohen, Bennett Evans, Bruce Falby, Kevin Frank, Deborah Freedberg, Catherine Greenleaf, Dee Hopper, Tom Hopper, Nancy Isikoff, Walter Johnson, Anne Knight, Roger LaRochelle, William Lenderking, Tim Lenderking, Ann Levin, Peter Levin, Cindy O'Leary, Sara Rothschild, Bert Saul, Maryanne Saul, Bryan Sweeney, Mimzie Uhler, Roger Uhler, Yvonne VanGessel, Joan Vicinus, Nancy Voorhis, Katherine Weymouth and Celia Woolverton

Betsy's Park - Cindy O'Leary

Cindy reported on the status of Betsy's Park stating that today the plan was for 4 more cabins to be taken away so that a total of 9 will have been removed thus far. In addition, one-half mile of trails has been groomed, the lattice work at the pool and the pool house have been taken down and soon the pool will be filled. There are presently 8 interns staying in the motel and green cabins and so far \$1,348,000 has been raised. On Thursday evenings from 5-7pm, volunteers have been working at the park and when asked about other opportunities for helping out, she mentioned that anyone at any time is welcomed to go to the park and pull out the invasive plant – bittersweet (description can be found on internet).

Cindy was asked whether or not usage of the park is being tracked and she reported that it is not since it's really not being publicized and signage at the park says usage by permission only. She did mention that all WOPWA members have permission to use the park. When asked, she stated that there is no active fund-raising at this time however, the website does explain how donations can be made and once the landscaping plans are firmer, they will be more actively asking people to donate and sponsor items like trees, benches, playground items, etc. Cindy invited everyone to sign up for the newsletters on the website to continue to be updated on what's happening in the park. Margie encouraged everyone to sign up for the newsletter.

Website is: betsysparknh.org

Annual Meeting Minutes

The July 27, 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report - Walter Johnson

Walter provided the Treasurer's Report for FY 2020. Opening balance was \$5,481.20; Revenue was \$1,871.26 and Expenses were \$2,603.95 leaving a balance of \$4,748.51 however, \$25.00 has been missing since he became Treasurer so cash on hand is \$4,723.06. He continues to search for the missing \$25.

Dues and Contributions (per Board recommendation) – Margie Bogdanow

NH LAKES	\$300 Dues
Loon Preservation Committee	\$250 Donation
Holderness Historical Society	\$100 Donation
Holderness Public Library	\$100 Donation
Betsy's Park	\$1,000 Donation

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the Boards' recommendations for dues and contributions.

Membership - Celia Woolverton

Margie wanted to acknowledge those members that we lost this year but are still with us in many other ways: Doug DeCluitt, Lew Knight and Katherine Beij.

Celia reported that the renewal membership letter went out June 18 and so far out of 59 members, 33 have paid and 26 have not. If anyone needs a membership form, contact Celia or go to the website.

In the past, it had been suggested that subscribing to Venmo may be beneficial, but it has not yet happened. If people have feedback about Venmo, please contact Celia.

Nancy Voorhis reminded everyone that as a benefit, an email list of all members is sent out to active members. If you need a copy of the list contact Nancy at ngvoorhis@gmail.com

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund & SLCS - Roger LaRochelle and Kevin Frank

Kevin reported that there is \$23,450 in the Mary H. Perry Fund and that there are no current projects at this time. He also mentioned that Janet Cocchiaro spearheaded an historical document of WOPWA (that was sent out to everyone) which includes a brief summary of the Mary H. Perry Fund. Margie thanked Janet for her hard work on gathering all the information and putting it together. She also stated that it is a working document. If anyone has any edits, additions or changes, please contact Janet.

Roger reminded everyone that the Fund allows members to participate in watershed conservation by materially supporting the creation of conservation easements. He also reported that SLCS has been tracking property sales and learned that 55 acres on Shepherd's Hill may be going up for sale. This would be of concern if the property could be subdivided adding multiple additional septic systems taxing the White Oak Pond watershed.

Roger also reported that the WOPWA Natural Resource Inventory is being wrapped up and should be ready to report in August. It was decided that having the report to read first and then having the presentation in the fall would be best. SLCS has also just opened the Dot Banks Nature Trail just off Millbridge Road in Sandwich – a 1.2 mile trail ending at Loss Lake. SLCS will be celebrating their 60th anniversary this year by having a virtual gala and in conjunction with SLA and the Science Center, will be calling for a 60 minute lights out for the entire area on 8/15/20 at 9 pm in celebration of the community and conservation.

Roger was thanked for helping to maintain a close relationship between SLCS and WOPWA which is very beneficial as we are able to get alerts and early warnings of issues effecting us.

Water Quality Report - Nancy Voorhis, Nancy Issikoff and Galen Beach

Nancy Isikoff thanked Nancy Voorhis, Galen Beach and Roger Uhler for their commitment over the years to water testing and tracking of data. This year, the conductivity level has continued to increase which has been increasing since 1989. This is a negative quality indicator relating most likely to road salting, septic system issues or agricultural run-off. There have been higher levels at the stream near the dump and this year, they tested the water upstream from the dump and found the same high levels indicating the dump is most likely not the cause. DES suggested a Watershed Management Plan. This would be a large project and it seems prudent to first find out what is involved. It was suggested that the group follow-up with the town on the education of the road maintenance people and the Green SnowPro and Salt Application Certification that was previously recommended.

Nancy Voorhis reported that NH Lakes recommended last year that WOPWA obtain signs for roadways to indicate entering the White Oak Pond watershed to help raise awareness and should this be reconsidered. She also reported that NH Lakes has a LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Living Program that is free, voluntary and non-regulatory and encouraged all to go to their website and that we make that information more available to members. In addition they have a webinar series on being lake smart that members may find useful.

Margie stated that the board will discuss which steps to take next since there are so many various options.

Everyone was reminded to watch again for Cyanobacteria blooms and to spread the word when spotted. If possible, getting samples to bring to SLA is ideal. Once it has been confirmed, the state puts up signs at the dam but communication beforehand to warn WOPWA membership is important. The bacteria stems from stagnant, warm water with nitrogen and phosphorous content. The question was raised as to whether it would be helpful to lower the level of the dam when this occurs. The Board will try to determine if this is an appropriate action to be taken.

Elections/Nominations - Margie Bogdanow

Proposed 2020-2021 WOPWA Board (names in bold need to be voted on)

Officers:

President – Margie Bogdanow

Vice-President – Bruce Falby

Treasurer – Walter Johnson

Secretary – Dee Hopper

Board Members:

Janet Cocchiaro is leaving the board

Galen Beach, Steve Cohen (2nd year of second term)

Celia Woolverton, Nancy Isikoff, Kevin Frank (1st year of second term)

Kim Godfrey, Bennett Evans, Sara Rothschild (2nd year of first term)

Bryan Sweeney, Bonnie Hunt, Benjy Gampel (new members starting 1st year of first term)

Additional Nominations were welcomed from the Floor. No other members were nominated. It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed to approve the Board of Directors as recommended.

Liasions:

NH Lakes – Kim Godfrey

SLCS – Janet Cocchiaro

Loon Preservation Committee – Tom Hopper

Squam Lakes Science Center – Ann Levin

SLA – vacant – please contact Margie if interested

50th Anniversary Celebration Committee - Margie Bogdanow

Margie reported that WOPWA would be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2 years and that the board has recommended a committee work on how to celebrate the event. If anyone is interested in serving on the committee, please contact Margie.

New Business/Announcements/Wildlife – Membership

There was no new business. Janet reported seeing a mama mink with her 3 babies. Kevin reported that for several evenings a beaver swam very close to his kayak and was slapped its tail on the water. He also mentioned spotting many more deer than in the past up on Cobb Hill. No one has spotted any bear.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores (Dee) Hopper, Secretary