

**WOPWA Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Final (approved by WOPWA board, June 30, 2012)**  
**August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011**  
**Hunt-Maloney Home –**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM by President Bob Maloney. The attending board members were: Janet Cocchiaro, Blake Ireland, Lois & Will Stratton, Anne Levin, Mimzie Uhler and Bob Maloney. Bob extended a special welcome to Blake as a new board member and announced that our other new board member, Corrine Hirsch, was unable to attend. There was a quorum.

There were no corrections offered to the minutes of either the June Board Meeting or those of the 2011 Annual Meeting. Lois commented that we have accomplished a lot. The Board meeting minutes were approved. The Annual Meeting minutes will be presented for approval at the 2012 Annual Meeting and remain a draft until that time.

**Website Issues & Membership** Nancy Voorhis was unable to attend this meeting so there was no new information about the website. Bob will ask Nancy to add information to the website about the Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund. We would like to see the website used more, but no one had any specific suggestions to offer as to how to encourage people to use it.

In discussing the recruiting of members, Blake asked if flyers could be posted near the put-in spot. Lois reported that Will already has a box and is waiting for Bob Rothschild to install a stronger post. Lois also reported that an expensive mailing brought in one member. Personal contact has brought in a few. At the Annual Meeting, many agreed to contact specific people. Several people have been invited to join by this means, but we have no specific results. Lois will send reminders to those who signed up to contact people. A discussion followed about the invitations to the Annual Meeting, which were sent only to the membership. Because of this, we are not contacting many who were once members and who have dropped their memberships, perhaps inadvertently. It was decided that the Annual Meeting mailing should include the entire watershed, but that we should not necessarily do this every year. We will include a return envelope so dues and memberships may be mailed easily.

Lois announced that as of the annual meeting we have 44 members.

There was discussion about promoting White Oak Pond which brought forth mixed opinions. On one hand, we like to see people enjoy the pond, but we like that it is not well known and maintains its intimacy. Janet said that we can set up a card table at Woodsiestock to promote WOPWA. More brochures will be printed. The web can probably be used to promote WOPWA, but Nancy Voorhis will have to help with this.

Bob announced that a meeting about making the Squam Lake area a Historic District will take place this weekend. There are pros and cons to this, so the meeting is an opportunity to learn more.

**Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund**

As reported at the annual meeting the balance in the fund as of June 30 was \$16,086.74. Bob reiterated that the rules for reimbursement have been changed so that the person putting land in conservation does not benefit from the part of the investment that results in personal benefit, i.e. the appraisal, which creates a tax benefit. From now on, a person putting land into conservation should receive 100% of eligible expenses up to 20% of the value of the fund at the end of the prior year. The expenses are to be reimbursed directly to the business providing the service, rather than to the investor, so that no tax liability will accrue. This change will also allow the fund to last longer.

The balance due to Bob Haskell is \$2,772.92, based on the fund balance at the end of 2010 of \$13,864.60. The paperwork is prepared and a motion was approved to send the letter of approval for

Roger LaRoche to send the check to him. A thank you note will also be sent to Bob Haskell. This situation is unique in that this payment is retroactive and from now on potential conservers will be made aware of the process from the beginning.

The Brown property will probably be the next one to benefit from the fund. The Brown family has said that the conservation of the Haskell property was influential in their decision. Forty parcels were put into conservation in a forty year period, and 56 have occurred in the last ten years.

### **Fall Drawdown of Pond**

A drawdown of White Oak Pond was traditionally done to allow residents to clean up their shore line. Among other things a drawdown can kill millfoil. Barry Eastman is now in (de facto) charge of the height of the dam\* and we would need to make arrangements with him to do it. Residents probably do not need to tend the shoreline every year; perhaps every three years would be adequate. If the roads flood, the dam will be lowered no matter what. The board decided to table the idea for now.

### **Other open issues:**

Bob Maloney had suggested an advisory board composed of former board members. Because of the feedback he received it was decided there was no need for such a group.

The tentative schedule for 2012 meetings is:

1<sup>st</sup> board mtg 4:00pm, June 22 (Friday)

Annual Mtg July 28 10:00 am (Saturday) unless this date is in conflict with another annual meeting which many WOP residents attend.

2<sup>nd</sup> bd mtg Aug 24<sup>th</sup> 4:00 pm (Friday)

Before the board meeting dates are finalized, it is necessary to check with those board members who are only here on weekends. The Friday at 4pm time may not work for them.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am

Respectfully submitted,

Mimzie Uhler  
Secretary

\* Note added by Roger Uhler. Mimzie asked me to proof read the minutes before sending them to Bob Maloney. Since I was not at the meeting, I don't know exactly what was said about Barry Eastman's role. However, I don't believe the statement "Barry Eastman is now in charge of the height of the dam" is correct. WOPWA has the water rights and determines the height of the dam (period). There is a prescribed routine for lowering water level in the fall and raising it in the spring that WOPWA voted on about 7-8 years ago. We did agree, because of his history with the dam, that Barry Eastman should be the one person to perform the raising or lowering of the dam at the direction of WOPWA. To limit the directions to Barry from too many different persons associated with WOPWA, it was agreed that Janet Coochiario, who lives close to the dam, would be the one to remind him about the regular lowering or raising of the lake level and any special lowering so people could work on their property edges on the lake. In an emergency, like lowering the lake level in advance of the recent tropical storm Irene, certainly Barry could use his judgement and do that without approval of WOPWA, although it would have been nice if he had notified Janet (which maybe he did) so the residents around the lake could be informed.