

WOPWA Annual meeting
Minutes
July 29, 2017

(as approved at Annual Meeting on July 27, 2018)

Present: Sid Lovett, Beth and Doug DeCluitt, Bonnie Hunt, Bob Maloney, Bert Saul, Maryann Saul, Galen Beach, Joan Vicinus, Olivia Miller, Anne Levin, Steve Wicksman, Bruce Falby, Nancy Isikoff, Steven Cohen, Susan Levin, Nancy Voorhis, Walter Johnson, Barbara Evans, Bennet Evans, Gus Fish, Michael Bogdanow, Margie Bogdanow, Colleen Small, Lois Stratton, Mimzie and Roger Uhler.

Welcome

Bob Maloney called the meeting to order and welcomed members.

Refreshments – Thank you. Joan Vicinus thanked all who brought refreshments.

Approval of Minutes – Motion to approve the minutes made by Sid Lovett. The minutes were approved. The finalized minutes of the 2016 annual meeting are posted on the WOPWA website.

T- shirts – Susan Levin designed new WOPWA T-shirts. The Board approved the design. She ordered \$500 worth of shirts in various sizes and they are now for sale.

Treasurer's report of July 2016-2017– see attached.

The Treasurer's report was approved.

Anne Levin pointed out that the fee for Lakes Region membership was not in the report. It was later clarified that the bill had been paid in June 2016 so it was included in last year's report.

Bob Maloney thanked the Historical society for donating space for our annual meeting.

Squam Lake Association – EB James

EB James, Executive Director of SLA provided an update about Squam Lake. He has been executive director for 6 years and spent the first years focused on systems and is now focusing on mission.

A few specific updates include:

Water quality - All in all, the lake and the water quality of the lake are in good, solid condition. They have been collecting data from the deepest part of the lake from May through October for 33 years. They are now expanding the water quality testing to other areas of the lake, closer to

shore and have begun doing winter testing. The lake is fishable, swimmable, and possibly even drinkable.

Invasive Aquatics – They are working on milfoil, which has exploded in the last decade. They have contained and controlled it in last 3 years. It is not eradicated, but it is contained. Squam is the only large lake that has been able to meaningfully contain it without chemicals.

Trails – There are 50 miles of trails. The goal is to educate people about best behavior on trails. They are working together with Squam Lake Conservation Society. Whitten Woods in Ashland is a new property. There are a lot of issues with the trail at Rattlesnake. The trail hosts 60,000-100,000 people a year and it is more than the area can accommodate. There are a variety of safety and parking issues. A “Friends of Rattlesnake” organization is forming in order to address the issue. Also, SLA is directing people to other hikes, including 5 Finger Point on Squam.

Loons – This was not a good year for loons on Squam Lake. There was only one hatched loon on Big Squam. There also were no loon chicks on White Oak Pond.

Fireworks – Fireworks are bad for lakes but there have been increasing numbers of them in the area. This was discussed again later at the meeting (see below).

Roger Larochelle, Executive Director of the Squam Lakes Conservation Society spoke briefly. There are no potential conservation areas pending on White Oak Pond at the moment, but there are several properties in process on Squam. He invited everyone to the annual meeting on August 19 at the Asquam House.

Water Quality Report – Galen Beach

The full reports are on the website. Overall, Galen reported that everything looks pretty good. The phosphorus level is pretty stable, even improving, a bit, with notable exceptions at 9 East Holderness and the dump tributary. Those areas are worsening.

Three of the Holderness Road Agents voluntarily took a Green SnowPro certification course and hopefully that will have a positive impact.

There was a short discussion about whether chemicals used by the Fire Department in their annual flushing could have an impact. However, it was learned at the meeting that the Holderness Fire Department does not use such chemicals as a matter of practice.

Thanks to the Hoppers for letting water testers use the motor boat.

Fireworks

A discussion about fireworks followed. The feeling was that there were more local fireworks this year than in the past. The sense was that we should do some educating re: the harmful impact of fireworks on the water. One idea was to draft a letter to homeowners, including White Oak Motel. EB James offered to help with a letter. It was also suggested that those who rent their

property could put a “no fireworks” clause in the lease. Lake Winona has been proactive about it. Perhaps someone could look into their approach.

Membership Update: Lois Stratton

We have 46 members currently. Thanks to Michael Bogdanow and Susan Levin, we have a new beautiful brochure that has been distributed around town and has received good feedback. We are almost out of them and will need to order more to continue distributing.

Mary H Perry Fund

As of May 31, balance is \$ 17,169.00 There are no active projects.

Open Discussion:

Dam and Maintenance

Town allocates \$2,500 per year for the dam.

Loon Banding - LPS

No chicks this year so there was no banding.

There are 3 new building projects on pond and we welcomed the new residents.

The election of Officers and Board took place. The following are now on the Board. All were elected unanimously.

Members of the Board for 2017-2018 are:

Margie Bogdanow, President

Kevin Frank Vice President

Dee Hopper, Secretary

Walter Johnson, Treasurer

Janet Cocchiaro

Anne Knight

Lois Stratton

Joan Vicinus

Galen Beach

Steven Cohen

Bruce Falby

Roger Uhler

A new non Board position - Director of Communications, to help with communications with the town and other local entities - was discussed at the June Board Meeting and Bob Maloney volunteered to fill that role this year.

Voting on the proposed Amendment to the bylaws regarding term limits was postponed and the new Board will revisit that issue if necessary.

Weed Watchers – August 19 at 1:30 Rebecca Hanson from SLA will once again lead a weed watching excursion. She will meet at the dam and will explore the south side of the pond this year. All are welcome.

Contributions

There was approval of \$100.00 to the Holderness Historical Society and to the Loon Preservation Committee and approval of \$300.00 dues to the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

Wildlife Sightings:

The following have been sighted this year.

bears, three cubs, a fisher cat, turkey and babies, a sow and 4 cubs off of Lane Road, beavers, snapping turtle, raccoon and babies, and geese and ducks. There was also a stillborn baby deer seen in the water earlier in the season. There were fewer white suckers this year.

The meeting was adjourned for the Crafts Show and Sale and snacks.

Submitted by: Margie Bogdanow