

White Oak Pond Watershed Association
Annual Meeting Minutes
July 24, 2021
Via Zoom

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

Meeting Attendees: Marge Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Will Brown, Janet Cocchiaro, Steven Cohen, Cici Cyr, Abby Diebold, William Diebold, Bruce Falby, Dan Falby, Deb Freeberg, Rob Haskell, Dee Hopper, Tom Hopper, Nancy Isikoff, Walter Johnson, Anne Knight, Roger LaRochelle, William Lenderking, Anne Levin, Susan Levin, Kim Lovett, Eric MacLeish, Cindy O’Leary, Sara Rothschild, MaryAnn Saul, Mimzie Uhler, Roger Uhler, Nancy Vhorrhis and Joan Vicinus. Guests: Dan Hill and Peter Rathsack (SLA interns)

Annual Meeting Minutes – July 25, 2020

The Minutes of July 25, 2020 Annual Meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer’s Report – Walter Johnson

Walter reported a balance in the account of \$4830.94. The board previously approved funds specifically to pay for legal expenses if needed for the Howard subdivision proposal process. However, since the request for the subdivision to the town was withdrawn, Margie explained that the funds are no longer necessary and therefore the approval is null and void. The Treasurer’s Report was unanimously approved.

Membership Committee – Margie Bognadow

Margie will be serving as chair of the Membership Committee and reported there were approximately 40 paying members in 2020 and 20 additional people on the distribution list. She encouraged everyone to return the membership applications and dues. Members can now use Venmo to pay. She thanked Nancy Vhorrhis for administrative support in maintaining the lists and website.

Dues and Contributions (per Board recommendation)

NH Lakes	\$300 Dues
Loon Preservation Committee	\$250 Donation
Holderness Historical Society	\$100 Donation
Holderness Public Library	\$100 Donation
Betsy’s Park	\$250 Donation

It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to distribute dues and contributions as recommended by the board.

Betsy's Park – Cindy O'Leary

Cindy reported that they have broken ground at the park to start landscaping and are waiting for permits to begin construction on the playground. While under construction, she requested that no one use the beach and construction area property for safety reasons. However, trail usage is encouraged. Once the landscaping and playground are completed, the park will reopen to those in the Squam Watershed. Positive comments were made about the “great winter wonderland” that the park created for skiing and skating.

Mary H. Perry Conservation Fund & SLCS – Roger LaRochelle

Roger reported that SLCS appreciates the partnership with White Oak Pond Watershed Association and having Janet Cocchiario as the liaison. There is currently \$23,947 in the Mary Perry Fund – the goal now is to use the money by helping people put land into conservation. SLCS also appreciates the support for performing the Natural Resource Inventory in the White Oak Pond watershed.

The Howard property owners' intent is to now sell the property as is without the potential for a subdivision. SLCS submitted a proposal to them to help protect the steep slopes – if approved, SLCS would take on the enforcement of the restrictions.

SLCS is now looking at putting higher lands in protection with a goal to increase conservation area from 30 to 40% in the Squam Watershed and are working with various landowners in the watershed.

The SLCS Annual Meeting is 8/14/21 on Diamond Ledge – directions are on their website. Working with other local organizations, on 8/15/2021, there will be the second annual “Night With the Stars” . All are asked to extinguish all lights between 9 and 10 pm to appreciate the surroundings and reinforce our values. SLCS will also be planning more events to try to reach the next generation.

Pond Quality & Watershed Plan – Nancy Isikoff

Nancy reported that, as we are all aware, there has been an increase in Cyanobacteria in White Oak Pond over the past couple of years; that the Natural Resource Inventory of the pond pointed out the watershed vulnerabilities and concern with rising phosphorus levels; and that concerns regarding the possible subdivision of the Howard property all brought the watershed members together and showed that we can make a difference. The newest issue is New Hampshire Electric (NHEC) planning to spray herbicide (which contains phosphorus) under power lines. By taking action and talking to the town, Nancy along with others was able to get the town to request a delay in spraying (now scheduled for after 7/31/2021). Members have a legal right to opt on and all are encouraged to share that information.. In addition, Nancy has ordered and is distributing “No Herbicide Spraying” signs for property owners to

post. Towns cannot opt out of spraying, nor can conservation organizations - only individual homeowners are able to opt out.

It is now time to continue to protect our pond by developing a watershed management plan. Nancy I. also thanked Nancy Vhorrhis for all the work she has done and continues to do with water testing.

Dan Hill and Peter Rathsack (SLA interns) spoke to the group about opening up communication and building a relationship between SLA and WOPWA. Some suggestions where they might be helpful include: start building off the work already done by SLA, help with water quality testing, try to get the surrounding towns to reduce the use of road salt, conduct workshops to teach others how to be good stewards, look at data from water reports to help identify trends and help to develop a management plan. They are looking forward to working with WOPWA. Water sampling data will be made available to them.

Margie suggested that some concrete things that all homeowners can do immediately are: share any information about what's happening on the pond with the chair so s/he can help coordinate responses and communicate; use water safe products (Cici has done some research and is willing to make a list); use NH Lakes website to research Lake Smart Program; and use WOPWA website and the links there to learn about being a good steward.

Nancy Vhorrhis moved that a subcommittee be formed to work with SLA and develop a Watershed Management Plan. It was seconded and unanimously approved. Anyone interested is to let Nancy I. know.

Elections/Nominations from Floor- Margie Bogdanow

Nominating Committee:

Present status:

Steve Cohen and Galen Beach have completed their two terms on the board and Celia Woolverton has resigned.

Kevin remains on the Board for the second year of his second term.

Bonnie, Benjy and Bryan will begin their second year of their first term.

Proposed slate to be voted on:

Nancy Isikoff, President

Susan Levin, Vice-President

Walter Johnson, Treasurer

Dee Hopper, Secretary

Kim Godfrey, Sara Rothschild, Bennett Evans nominated to start their second terms on the board.

Eric MacLeish, Cici Cyr, Michael Bogdanow, and Amanda Weymouth nominated to begin their 1st year of their 1st term. In addition, Janet Cocchiario was nominated from the floor.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the slate as presented including the addition of Janet Cocchiaro.

Wildlife

The following wildlife has been seen around the watershed: large water snakes, kingfishers, minks, eagles, owls, bobcats, humming birds, loons, bears, geese, mergansers, herons, deer, racoons, beavers and pileated woodpeckers.

New Business/Announcements

William Lenderking brought up the issue of the pond's acronym being WOP which is a derogatory term used for Italian/Americans and should we consider changing it. He suggested WHOAP instead or something else. It was decided that this by a future issue to work on.

Nancy Isikoff will be having a music event at Cloverleaf on 8/28 for everyone to enjoy. It will be a bring your own instruments and drinks. An email will be sent out in the near future with all the details.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores (Dee) C. Hopper
Secretary