

White Oak Pond Watershed Association
Board of Directors Meeting
MINUTES
June 12, 2022
At the home of Nancy Isikoff
with one member and one guest on conference call

DRAFT

President Nancy Isikoff called the meeting to order at 10:10.

Meeting Attendees: Marge Bogdanow, Michael Bogdanow, Janet Cocchiaro, Cici Cyr, Bennett Evans, Kevin Frank, Dee Hopper, Nancy Isikoff, Susan Levin, Kim Lovett, Caryn McHose, Sara Rothschild (conference call) and Bryan Sweeney. Guest: Roger Larochelle, SCLS (conference call). Bonnie Hunt, Benjy Gambel and Amanda Weymouth all attempted to participate remotely but due to technical difficulties Nancy was unable to admit them to the Zoom link.

Board Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2021

The Minutes of August 26, 2021 Board Meeting were approved with one spelling correction.

Treasurer's Report

Opening balance was \$4,930.94; Revenue was \$3495.58; Expenses were \$1593.99 leaving a balance of \$6832.53. Please see full report for details. The Treasurer's Report was accepted as submitted.

Membership – Margie Bogdanow

Margie reported that Membership Renewal Forms for this year have been sent out.

Recommended Donations and Dues for Annual Meeting

Last year's dues and donations of WOPWA were reviewed. There was some discussion about increasing donations to, or purchasing some equipment for, Betsy's Park since the park provided some fun winter activities for the community. There would have been expenses associated with those activities such as equipment and fuel for plowing on the ice. Nancy suggested that Cindy O'Leary be asked to present at the Annual Meeting and all agreed. It was decided to wait until Nancy I. has a conversation with Cindy to determine what the needs are for the park.

Roger Larochelle, SCLS – Mary Perry Fund Proposal

Roger sent the following proposal to Nancy I. to be considered by the board. It has been enclosed in its entirety.

The White Oak Pond Watershed Association (WOPWA) was established to "promote the conservation of the natural, scenic and historic resources of the watershed, and to protect the quality of the waters and tributaries of the

pond.” Over the years WOPWA has promoted conservation and protection of the watershed lands in a variety of ways. One activity was education on the topic of conservation easements.

Mary Perry was a founder of WOPWA and worked to protect wetlands and shore front around White Oak Pond. The Mary Perry fund’s intention is to provide partnerships with landowners who contemplate making easements. The fund offers a monetary reward/ reimbursement to landowners who make an easement gift within the watershed and provides reimbursement for things such as survey costs and legal fees. Thus far, the fund has provided partnerships for two important easements in the White Oak Pond watershed.

The Squam Lakes Conservation Society is the formal administrator of the funds, making contributions charitable for tax purposes. Disposition of the funds is directed by WOPWA.

The initial goal of the fund is to achieve a balance of \$25,000, and to maintain that balance as an incentive for future easements. Such a balance would insure each participating landowner a reimbursement up to \$5,000. As of May 31, 2022, the balance of the fund is \$24,169.

SLCS has acted as an Intermediary on behalf of WOPWA since 2008. These funds have been contributed to SLCS on behalf of WOPWA, allowing the donor to recognize the charitable deductibility of the gift. All good, but these funds are then recorded as a liability in the SLCS Financial Statements in accordance with FASB ASC 958-605-25. Note that the Mary Perry Funds are co-mingled with other SLCS project funds for investment purposes. The overall SLCS project funds as of May 31, 2022 were \$4,981,885, including the Mary Perry Funds.

Carrying the Mary Perry Fund as an ongoing liability is not a desirable position for SLCS. Typically, so called “Agency Funds” are temporary. An example is Betsy’s Park, whereby SLCS turned over the Agency Funds once Betsy’s Park obtained official non-profit status.

Proposal: *Transfer the custody of the Mary Perry Funds to the SLCS Board. SLCS will pledge to only disburse Mary Perry Funds upon the recommendation from the WOPWA Board of Directors.*

Roger reassured us that the control of the monies would continue to be WOPWA’s. After discussion, it was decided that Roger would draft a policy document stating that WOPWA would maintain control. With Roger’s agreement to write such a policy statement, it was moved, seconded and approved to move forward with his proposal.

Roger gave a brief update about proposed conservation lands around White Oak Pond and explained that at the Annual Meeting, he would go into more detail using a map to display the properties for better understanding.

Water Testing

Nancy explained that more water testers are needed. With so few water testers, the burden falls on the same members and Roger Uhler has resigned due to health reasons. Janet, Nancy V. and Nancy I. will continue to be testers but Nancy V. would like someone to take over the organization of the testing beginning next summer. Sue Levin volunteered to be the organizer. Bryan Sweeney reported that his son, Calvin Sweeney and wife, Yvonne VanGessel, will volunteer and Sue Levin said that her husband, Steve Cohen, would do so as well. Nancy I. reported that her husband, Bruce Falby, is also willing to help out. There was discussion about the need for a boat with a motor. Janet has a new electric motor that she is willing to use for the next testing. Nancy I. is willing to provide a boat but doesn't have a reliable motor and we need to check with Eric MacLeish to see if his boat is still available to be used for water testing.

Ideas for 50th Anniversary of WOPWA Celebration

Several ideas for the celebration were discussed including: education on native and edible plants around the pond and other topics, incorporating future initiatives, using the celebration for publicity, having it at Betsy's Park, making it a year-round celebration with multiple small events. It was decided that a committee work on this celebration and present ideas at the Annual Meeting. Sara Rothchild, Susan Levin and Cici Cyr agreed to be on the committee and report at the Annual Meeting. Planning for the 50th celebration and education on conservation will be the priorities for the future.

Signage at the Dam

Sara Rothchild proposed that rather than create a new sign to post at the dam as had been decided at a previous meeting, the signs presently posted seem to cover all the necessary issues. All agreed to leave the signage as it presently is.

Fireworks Ordinance

Nancy I. has done research on writing a proposal for a town warrant about not allowing fireworks on White Oak Pond. She discovered that there are multiple statutes involved with writing a warrant and multiple firework restriction options. Janet mentioned that the town Planning Board has also run into many concerns about the language and have tabled the discussion at this time. After discussion, it was decided to talk to the specific firework offenders on the pond and to continue to educate people. The DES environmental impact statement will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

Board Nominations for 2022-2023

Kim Godfrey, Sara Rothchild and Bennett Evans are finishing the 1st year of their 2nd term. Eric MacLeish, Cici Cyr, Michael Bogdanow, and Amanda Weymouth are

serving the 2nd year of their 1st term. Bonnie Hunt, Benjy Gambel and Bryan Sweeney are finishing the 2nd year of their 1st term. Kevin Frank is serving the 2nd year of his 2nd term so is off the board at the end of this term. Walter Johnson has agreed to continue as Treasurer. Dee Hopper would like to resign as Secretary. Kim Godfrey agreed to be Secretary. Michael Bognadow, Kim Godfrey and Sara Rothchild are on the nominating committee and will present at least 2 nominees for the Annual Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolores (Dee) C. Hopper
Secretary