

Waukewan Shore Owners Association

PO Box 91, Meredith, NH 03253

wsoa.waukewan.org

Annual Meeting Minutes

Meredith Community Center Conference Room B

- Date:** July 9, 2011
- Directors Present:** Kay Anderson, Bruce Bond, Chuck Braxton, Ron Draper, Chuck Lowth, Duncan McNeish, Doug Steele, Christie Van Heek, Bob Wenstrup
- Members Present:** Approximately 40 WSOA members
- Special Guest:** Ralph Kirshner, Chair, New Hampton Conservation Commission
- Guests:** Approximately three non-members

Agenda

1. Call to order

Doug Steele called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM and recognized a quorum of members present. Steele noted the resignation of John Pazzani as President.

2. Introduction of the Directors

The Directors introduced themselves to the audience, giving name and town of residence.

3. Review of activities of the past year

3a. Spear Property Acquisition

Duncan McNeish referred to the WSOA newsletter, which contains an article relative to the Spear Property Acquisition. He acknowledged receipt of monies to finalize the purchase the Spear property on September 3, 2010 and thanked the membership and various organizations involved for their support.

McNeish also noted that the kiosk has been refurbished, thanks to Tim Whiting.

Bob Wenstrup reviewed the Spear purchase and thanked Ralph Kirschner for his assistance. Wenstrup reviewed the cleanup of the Spear property, including removal of waste including tires, mattresses, sofa, carpet, fencing, refrigerator, auto parts and hazardous waste, in accordance with town of New Hampton requirements prior to the purchase. The cleanup required the help of a contractor with an excavator, dump truck and many trips to the landfill for disposal. He thanked Grace Garvey, environmental consultant, for her help as well as the towns of Meredith, Center Harbor, New Hampton, and various official organizations.

He also recognized the cooperation of Chris Burke of Lake Winona in suggesting a conference with DES Clean Lakes program to discuss release of pollutants into Monkey Pond from the Monkey Pond sub watershed, the area including Old Province Common and the area across Route 104 up to the old town reservoir.

The town of Meredith is now working on a proposal to remediate the Monkey Pond watershed using NH DES administered federal EPA Section 319 Non-Point-Source Grant funds available under the NH DES Clean Water Program.

3b. Lake Host Program and NH Lakes Storm Water Runoff Project for Lake Waukewan

Tim Whiting noted that lake hosts performed 1,200 inspections last summer. Fifteen volunteers provided 400 “in kind” volunteer hours and paid lake hosts provided approximately 400 “paid hours” over the summer season.

The lake host program was supported by \$1,200 from the New Hampshire Lakes Association, \$1,500 from WSOA, and \$1,500 from the Town of Meredith.

This year the Waukewan lake host program has more than enough volunteers for the season.

Whiting also reviewed the “Demonstration Landscape” program, a joint venture of the NH Lakes Association and Inter-Lakes High School. This program is a demonstration project that uses various types of low-cost landscaping to reduce surface storm run-off pollution along the shoreline of Lake Waukewan.

Five demonstration sites have been selected around the lake, which will serve as examples of how plantings can be used to reduce pollution runoff into the lake. He said the shoreline properties involved: - the small park at the small boat launch ramp, Winona Forest Association condominium beach, Lake Waukewan Association beach, and others. These will be the available for inspection. He thanked those involved for their support.

3c. Watershed and Overland Transport of Storm Water as Source of Lake Pollution

Bruce Bond reviewed the extent of the Waukewan watershed; it includes parts of Meredith, Center Harbor, New Hampton, Ashland and Holderness. According to DES, the biggest source of lake pollution is surface transport of storm water run-off.

He noted that development around Lake Waukewan has grown from a few scattered camps to a highly developed residential development, with concomitant decrease in water quality because of the great increase in impervious surfaces - roofs, driveways, patios—that transfer pollutants into the lake rather than absorbing the pollutants before they flows into the lake.

Bond noted that residents around Lake Waukewan will soon receive a pamphlet that explains how shore owners can reduce surface run-off pollution into the lake, and he urged that it shore owners read it and implement its recommendations.

He noted positive steps in reduction of pollution: purchase of the Spear property; Center Harbor’s designation of prime wetlands opposite the former Spear property on the Snake River; and a project to put approximately 1,000 acres in Center Harbor into conservation easement. These efforts will result in significant influence in control of storm water run-off in the watershed.

4. Status and uses of the WSOA website, wsoa.waukewan.org

Doug Steele explained web access to WSOA information. He explained that the waukewan.org site contains information about the Waukewan Shore Owners Association and the Lake Waukewan Association. He noted that the WSOA portion of the site contains links to WSOA information: announcements of the WSOA annual meeting, minutes, Treasurer’s report; WSOA By-Laws and Directors schedule of meetings; projects, such as storm water run-off and phosphorus reduction; maps of the entire watershed, including sub watersheds, and Board members’ contact information.

5. Accept minutes of 2010 annual meeting

Kay Anderson asked for any additions or corrections to the minutes of the 2010 annual meeting. Hearing none, she asked for a motion to accept the minutes. A motion to accept was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Accept Treasurer's report for fiscal year ending 6/30/11

Duncan McNeish reviewed the Treasurer's report and asked for a motion to accept as written. The motion was made, seconded was passed unanimously.

7. Election of directors

Kay Anderson announced that her term as a Director would end at this meeting. She introduced Ray Moritz as a candidate for director to replace her. She explained that two sitting Directors are up for renewal, Doug Steele and Duncan McNeish. She asked for a motion to accept all three as Board Directors. The motion was made, seconded, and following no discussion, was passed unanimously.

8. Transition to new fiscal year and projected expenditures from 7/1/11

Christie Van Heek explained that the Board has changed the upcoming membership year to extend from 7/1/11 to 12/31/12. The transition membership dues will cover 18 months. Following that time, membership will follow the calendar year of 1/1-12/31.

9. Revision of By-laws

Chuck Braxton explained the mission of the WSOA as protection of the whole of the Waukewan watershed; the rationale for the proposed changes in WSOA By-Laws is better implementation of our mission by defining membership eligibility to include all property owners within the watershed. This would necessitate a new name for the present organization: Waukewan Shore Owners Association would become known as Waukewan Watershed Protective Association. This change would clarify membership and reinforce the mission of education and protection of the watershed.

The purpose of another change in the By-laws would align the fiscal year with the membership year.

Braxton also explained that the Board felt that the by-laws should include a Code of Conduct for Directors so that every new director has clear guidance in performance of his duties.

He asked for questions:

- *Are there other active homeowners associations?*

Yes, but the mission of this organization is education and scientific activities in protection of the Waukewan watershed.

- *Will the WSOA differ from the WWPA?*

Yes, the WSOA will evolve to WWPA in order to include any property owner whose water drains into Lake Waukewan.

- *What about the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee?*

The Town of Meredith organized this committee as an advisory committee to the Meredith Selectmen.

- *Is the Advisory Committee redundant with WSOA/WWPA?*

They have some common goals, but the Advisory Committee reports to the Select Board of the Town of Meredith. The WSOA does not. The WWPA would not.

The WWPA would be an expansion of existing membership because experience in dealing with other towns beyond Meredith has shown significant impact on issues beyond Meredith. By expanding the membership, the organization will have a larger base to deal with the five towns involved and a larger clout in dealing with state agencies, such as the DES and the Marine Patrol. Is the organization duplicating efforts?

Anderson explained that the Watershed Advisory Committee has limited membership and the selectmen define its scope. Wenstrup mentioned that the selectmen have much different interests and priorities than do citizens throughout the watershed. Braxton referred to an example of a recent zoning application in the Monkey Pond sub watershed.

- *What references document definition of the watershed?*

The Waukewan watershed is defined by the geography of the land; within the watershed water flows within its limits; in this case it has an outlet to Lake Winnepesaukee, so it is a sub watershed of the Winnepesaukee watershed. The geographical boundaries of the Waukewan watershed are shown on maps on our website.

- *Is there a time limit for taking comments from the membership?*

No, there is no formal time line set.

- *Will questions be put to the membership during the summer?*

If so, there would be a need for a special meeting or proxy vote.

- *A proxy vote requires only 20% of the membership and, as such, is too small a percentage to represent a consensus.*

This will be taken under advisement.

- *The original mission was "to protect and preserve," and there is a need for uniform participation regarding the watershed. It is not clear that all owners in the watershed have the same concerns regarding "ownership." The question is how to deal with issues of more importance and not wanting to see work already done diluted by an extended membership. There are governmental issues such as reference to mechanization for "voting member."*

Concern about "dilution" should be weighed against the ability of the organization to be effective. There may still be some disagreement within the organization.

Ralph Kirschner spoke as a member of the Winnepesaukee watershed organization. He commented that, based on his experience with this body, the amount of "dilution" of the impact of the original organization by expansion is not a problem because not all potential members are interested in addressing concerns of the larger group. He stated that The Winnepesaukee Association changed its membership base and is now doing business as the Lake Winnepesaukee Watershed Association (<http://www.winnepesaukee.org>). He recommended that the Waukewan Shore Owners Association should also retain its name and should use "d/b/a" (doing business as) the "Waukewan Watershed Protective Association" in all documents to avoid the need to change the original

Articles of Agreement with the state and the need to re-apply for tax-exempt 501(C)(3) status with the Federal IRS.

- *With respect to the "Code of Conduct," – the need should be determined by the membership, not limited to the Directors and should be approved by the members.*

This will be taken under advisement.

- *What is the designation of family member as a voting member – shouldn't this be a decision left to the family?*

There is no change in the concept of a family choosing a member for voting. This is still a family decision that can be made and changed at any time.

- *What is the total membership now and what is the projection of an extended membership that would include eligible watershed owners?*

Today's paid-up membership is 87. Last year's paid-up membership was 127. With the proposed change in membership eligibility, the potential is approximately 211 or roughly double the present membership.

10. New Business

Doug Steele asked if there are any new items the membership wants to bring before the meeting.

- *Why is there a change in membership dues?*

Van Heek explained that there are projected increased costs that we cannot control. Other cost increases occur in our transition from a 12-month to an 18-month fiscal year. For instance, because the 18-month transition period includes two summers, there will be two Lake Host programs to fund. Therefore, the need to raise dues was apparent.

- *Following the resignation of the President of the Board of Directors, who will elect the new President?*

The board of directors will elect a new president.

- *What is the state of affairs regarding the maintenance of the railroad and growth clearance using herbicides? Can this body address the issue of herbicide spraying? Does the state notify abutters of the spraying schedule and its components? Is spraying necessary?*

The state Department of Transportation, which owns the railroad property, controls the spraying program. The Department of Agriculture regulates the herbicides used. An annual application for herbicide spraying is required. The town is notified ahead of time of the dates of the spraying. Citizens can call the town to be notified of applications.

McNeish asked where the property in question located. The questioner answered next to the Winona Forest Association beach. The property is within 50 feet of the shoreline.

Whiting noted that any change in spraying policy will have to come from the Department of Transportation. The Town of Meredith has put in some limitations, so control has improved. Laws would have to be changed to accommodate some of the concerns.

Braxton noted that he has also been concerned regarding the removal of old railroad ties. Removal of the ties has been improved after complaints from shore owners and the Waukewan Watershed Advisory Committee.

Bond noted that there are three herbicide products approved for spraying near water in NH. Spraying must be done within the eight feet between the rails when the RR property is within 50 feet of the lake, otherwise in a 16-foot wide pattern.

A 24-hour notice must be given to the town regarding spraying. He suggested that members contact John Edgar, Community Planning Director, regarding notification to individual property owners.

- *Who issues the permit for spraying?*

The NH Department of Agriculture.

- *What is the status of any loon chicks this year on Lake Waukewan?*

The nesting loon pair in Jenness Cove incubated one egg, but the chick was destroyed, probably by a mink. Mink tracks were found in the nest.

- *Has the State issued a final decision regarding the lake level and, if so, has there been an appeal?*

Yes, the State has issued a final decision. A group of 24 property-owning families on Waukewan and Winona have filed an appeal to this decision with the DES Water Board.

- *Anderson asked how to find out when an appeal will be heard in Concord.*

Biron Bedard noted that the DES Water Council website can be accessed through the DES website.

Van Heek asked that Steele post the date of the appeal on the WSOA website.

Bedard stated that there is no time limit on the intervention of an appeal. Anyone wishing to join as an intervener can contact him.

Steele will post information regarding the date of the hearing on the website when the date is known.

- *What is the method for contacting the membership regarding important meetings in Concord?*

Steele will post information on the website and distribute information through email. He asked that if members would like to receive notification through email that they give their email addresses to the Board as soon as possible.

- *Is there any update regarding Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) water testing ?*

Wenstrup reported that the last email from Sarah Steiner was received about a week ago without any concrete information about financial support for this very important water quality-monitoring program. The legislature session ended at the beginning of July. There has been a projected reduction in force within the VLAP staff from nine to two staff.

Braxton asked about the cost of maintaining the quality and degree of testing as in years past. Wenstrup responded that the price of phosphorus measurements doubled last year. In the past this is the only test we paid for, although a whole spectrum of tests were performed and recorded. If the

samples are sent to an outside laboratory, the increase in price and the number of charges for other tests that were done without charge previously may increase. We have no further information at this time, and the impact of legislative changes is unclear.

- *Could the Town of Meredith fund water testing?*

McNeish noted that he is Treasurer of the Meredith Public Library; he expects that the town budget will be level funded. Town support for water testing is not likely.

- *A question was asked about an anonymous letter sent to some of the membership from a group of disgruntled former members.*

Steele replied that the “anonymous letter” was not sent to the WSOA directors. The directors did not think that a reply to an unsigned, undated letter from such a group was appropriate.

11. Adjourn

Steele asked for further questions or comments; hearing none, he asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Steele, Secretary