

Watchic Lake Association

DRAFT Annual Member Meeting Minutes - July 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order by President Patty Guenther at 9:30 a.m. at Standish Town Hall. A quorum was established with 36 members present.

The President thanked association members and the board of directors for their support of the association and the work that it does to preserve the quality of Watchic Lake. A special note of good news was the report of the sale of a large parcel of woodland between Rt. 113 and Oak Hill Road to the Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine (SWOAM). With this area being in the direct watershed for Watchic Lake, having it remain as woodland will have a major beneficial impact on the lake. Dale Rines was instrumental in the work that culminated in this acquisition.

Paul McNulty discussed the results of a survey sent to Watchic Lake property owners in the spring. The top concerns from the 81 respondents were 1) continue to avoid infestation by invasive species, water clarity/quality, protecting the loons, managing runoff, and maintaining septic systems. Results and comments from the surveys returned may be viewed at the association's website, www.watchiclake.org. Leslie Ford won the drawing for an Ipod from a pool of all those who returned the survey.

Dave Bradbury reported on the dam. Minor repairs were made to the dam this spring and everything seems to be working well, requiring fewer adjustments to maintain the water level.

Treasurer Bob Joslyn spoke briefly about the association finances. A copy of the financial report will be available on the association website. Steve Center reviewed the Capital Fund. While the fund drive is complete, collecting pledges will continue for several more years, and donations are still being accepted. Members were encouraged to include the association in their estate planning, as well. Donations from the Town of Standish and the Davis Foundation have been received in full. At the current collection rate, pledges of approximately \$205,000 are expected to net out to about \$185,000. Steve emphasized the need for a healthy reserve (given the lack of readily available local, state or federal funding), to be able to make an immediate response to threats to the lake.

Eben Joslyn reported on his monitoring of the lake, which measures many factors that affect water quality. Items of specific concern to the lake are phosphates, nitrogen, erosion, invasive species, and leaks of home heating oil and boat fuel. Overall the monitoring results are positive and the lake continues to maintain favorable levels for a lake of our size and depth. Results from the monitoring tests are available on the association's website. Eben has stepped down from the board of directors because of the constraints of his job, but will remain on the Water Quality Committee and continue to conduct tests. Patty thanked him for his commitment.

Two pairs of loons were reported to be nesting on the lake. One pair has successfully hatched a

chick. The nesting loons are being monitored by Biodiversity Research Institute.

Paul reported that membership is up this year by about 30% to 154, not including business sponsors. Membership represents approximately 119 of the 256 properties around the lake.

Three LakeSmart awards were presented by Patty Taylor. Linda and Paul Martenson, Kim and Steve Lajoie, and Victoria Chesley Brega had all met the criteria. The LakeSmart program is administered by the Maine Lake Society to encourage good landscaping practices that help to divert runoff from getting to the lake. Eric Packard received a commendation from the program, as he works toward an award. Patty expressed her hope that we could get four more properties to qualify for the award, bringing Watchic Lake to “Gold Status”.

Paul asked for feedback on his desire to move to email communication with members rather than through regular mail. Several people expressed concerns that with an older population on the lake this might not be viable. Others suggested that we offer an option on the membership form, so we can at least cut down on the number of items that we mail, and the associated costs.

The following nominations for members for re-election to the board of directors were presented by Owen Smith: Patty Guenther (1 year – filling the vacancy created by Eben Joslyn’s resignation), Patty Taylor (3 years), and Robert Joslyn (3 years). The nominees were elected unanimously.

The following nomination for new member to the board of directors was presented by Owen Smith: Nancy McNulty (3 years). The nominee was elected unanimously.

The following officer nominations for the board of directors were presented by Owen Smith: President – Paul McNulty, Historian – Donal Drew. Both positions were for two year terms. The nominees were elected unanimously. It was noted that the vice-president position is currently vacant, but will be filled by the board for a one year term at a later date. Martha Drew continues as Secretary and Bob Joslyn continues as Treasurer.

The financial report for the current year and the minutes from the July 12, 2014, annual meeting were presented for acceptance and unanimously approved.

Closing remarks were made by Paul McNulty and he presented a gift to Patty Guenther, the out-going President, for her service.

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m. by unanimous vote, on a motion made by David Drew and seconded by David Rutter.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Drew,
Secretary, Watchic Lake Association