



Watchic Lake Association Annual Meeting

Standish Town Hall

July 6, 2019

Thank you for your support in 2018/2019:

- Members, business sponsors, and other supporters

Making progress on our long term goals:

- Focusing on key concerns
- Maintaining water quality and invasive free habitat
- Executing against a long term plan

Our biggest challenges:

- **Nutrient rich runoff** and development around the lake increase algal bloom risk
- Funds to cover potential major projects such as invasive plant removal

Lets Avoid on Watchic!



Celebrate Life on the Lake!



Prize 1: Lovely pair of Adirondack chairs



Prize 2: New two burner Weber grill



\$5 per ticket and 5 tickets for \$20.

Tickets will be sold during the summer, including from the Ice Cream Boat and at the Standish Summer Spectacular. Winner announced on our website by September 2. Contact Martha Drew for more info. 207-642-3358 or 4650drew@twc.com

- Dam gate installed in 2015 continues to operate well.
- **Spring goal:** raise the water level fairly quickly after ice-out to protect loon nests and eggs from flooding.
- **Fall goal:** lower water level to help protect the shoreline and docks.
- **2018/2019** weather wetter than normal – still managing water within 3” of full pond.

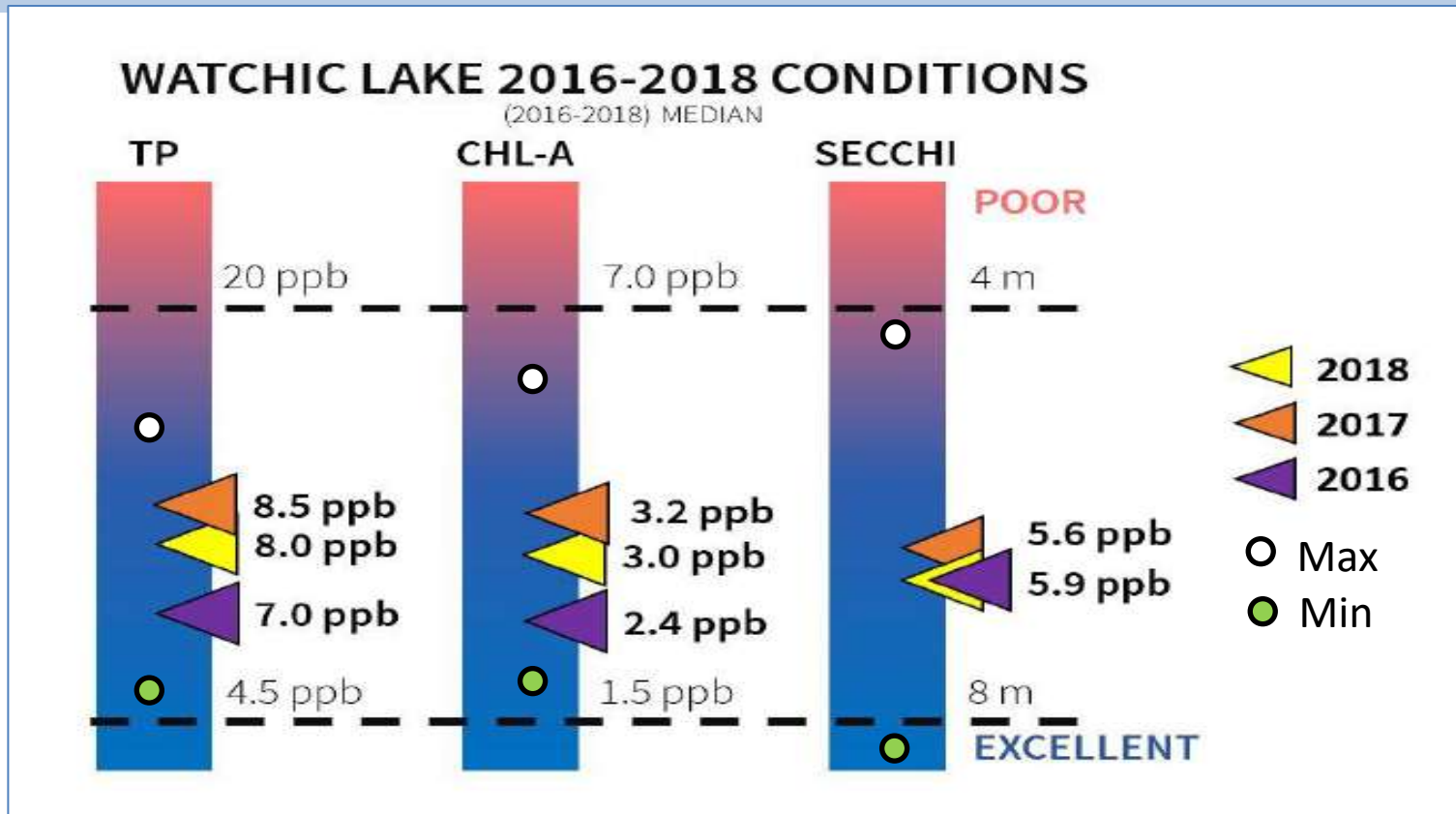


Adjusting the dam gate



Placing safety buoys

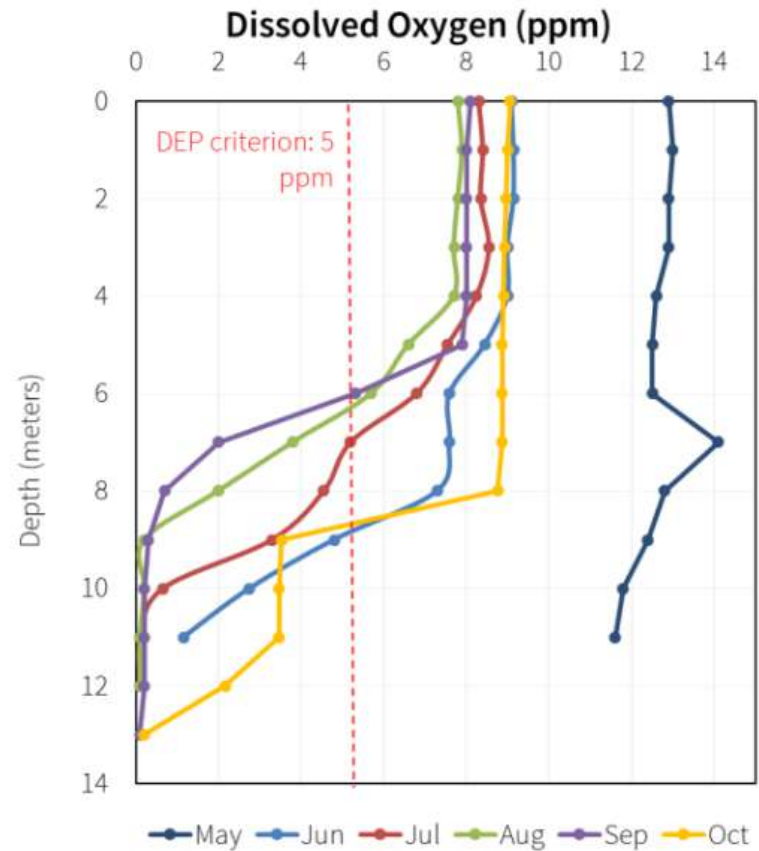
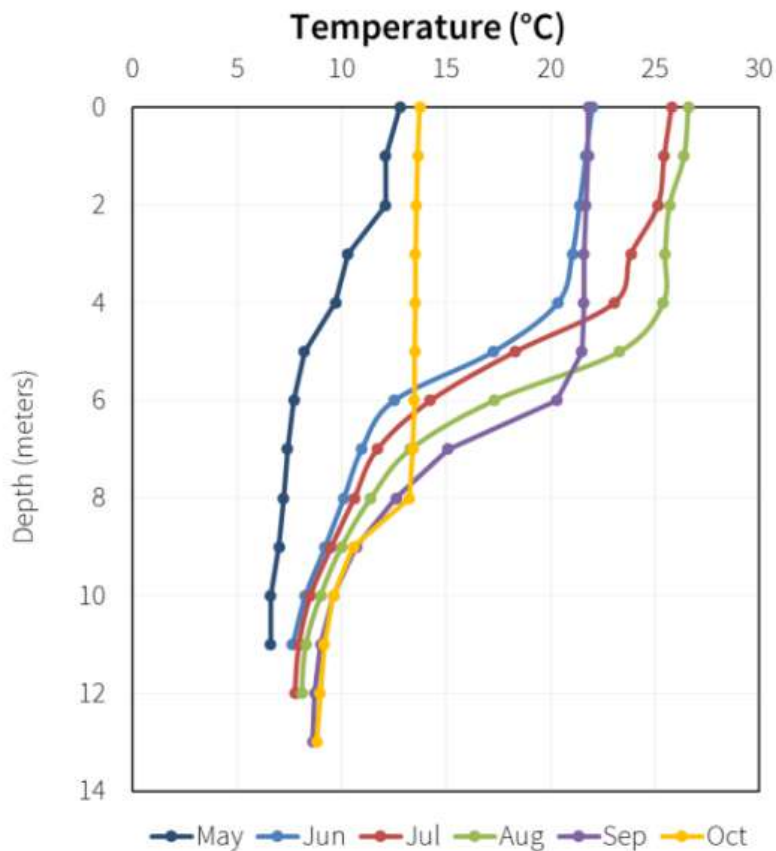
Third year of comprehensive water testing over seen by FBEnvironmental is complete. This data teamed with historical data will be used to monitor Watchic Lake for on-going and new issues



Trophic state indicators total phosphorus (TP), chlorophyll-a (CHL-A), and water clarity (SECCHI) from 2016-2018. Black dotted lines represent the upper and lower thresholds for each parameter that classify the lake as mesotrophic.

Water Quality Risk- Low Oxygen

Low Oxygen at the lake bottom during summer months could lead to more Phosphorus release from the lake sediment –
Leads to more algae and less clarity



Risk - More Runoff Increases Metaphyton

Like all lakes in Maine, Watchic Lake is in a delicate balance with it's environment. This Spring we saw a greater concentration of Metaphyton in the lake.

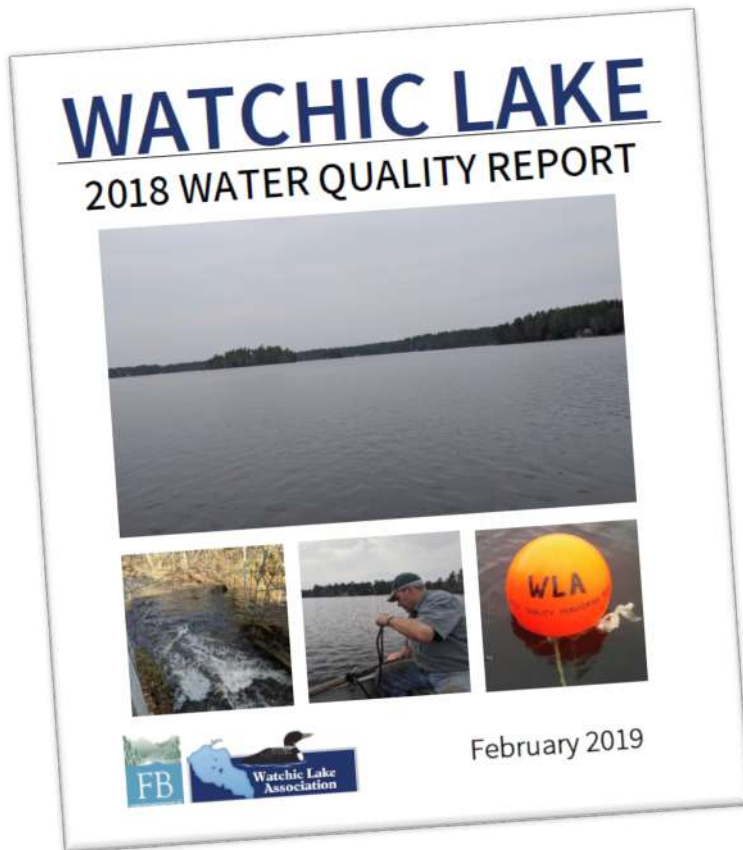
- Large raft of Metaphyton (DEP confirmed) off Kiwanis Beach. About 100 by 50 feet.
- “Metaphyton” is a commonly occurring filamentous algae that is typically observed in shallow areas of Lakes in Maine shortly after ice-out.
- While not harmful, it is a slimy unpleasant mess.
- Most likely caused by excessive nutrients entering the lake via septic system faults or unmitigated runoff.
- WLA volunteers are monitoring this mass, report to LSM, and will suggest remediation if needed.



Water Quality Long Term Risks

- While **water quality is good today**, Watchic Lake is in a delicate balance with it's environment.
- **Human activities, large and small** within the watershed are increasing the amount and transport of harmful chemicals, pollutants and dangerous foreign materials into the lake and its streams.
- **Increased rainfall, especially catastrophic events** such as mega-storms put roads, drainages, and septic systems at risk of introducing deadly runoff.
- **Its up to each property owner and road association to do their part:**
 - Check your property for signs of unmitigated runoff, and signs of soil erosion
 - Maintain a vegetated shoreline buffer
 - Don't use lawn chemicals containing nitrogen or phosphate compounds.
 - Maintain your septic system

2018 Report.
Download from our website



**To join the Water Quality
team or just for a ride along
to see what we do, contact
Cathy Watson at
734-395-9749**



- For the third year the WLA ran an LSM (Lake Stewards of Maine) certified plant inventory event in the summer of 2018.
- 23 native plants identified and submitted to LSM. **No invasives found.**
- Watchic Lake has not experienced any invasive plants to date but we must remain vigilant.
- The WLA is tracking an atypical Metaphyton Algae outbreak in front of the Kiwanis “Snack Shack” and working to identify the cause and the solution.
- Become Maine LSM “Invasive Plant Patroller”. Go to www.lakestewardsofmaine.org for a schedule of their workshops.

Watchic Lake Survey Sites – August 2018



Thanks to Steve and Kim Lajoie, David Maus, Don and Martha Drew, Paul and Nancy McNulty, Cathy Watson, Wendi Rodriguez, and Owen Smith (with his son Owen) for making our 2018 inventory day a success!

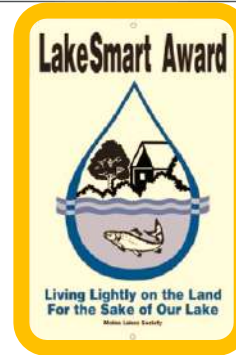
Plant Inventory - August 10: Paddle the lake to gather and evaluate native and invasive plants. **Learn more by contacting Steve Lajoie at steve03229@aol.com**

- Nesting pairs of loons on both Middle (Smile) Island AND Blueberry Island. Stay back and never disturb nesting loons as they might abandon the nest if they are spooked
- Typically two nesting pairs would not be this close as loons are incredibly territorial and have been known to kill other chicks in their territory
- As of now the pair at the East end of the lake that traditionally lay eggs in the inlet have not yet nested
- Help the Loons – Help the Lake
 - Chicks are very small so give them a wide berth and watch carefully. Chicks are not always with a parent and can be very hard to see
 - Stay at least 150 feet away at all times, let them choose if they want to come closer
 - Report any harassing activity to The Warden Service
 - Power boat and jet ski users need to be on the lookout for loons. They dive deep and can pop up anywhere
 - The main risk factor for loons is ingesting lead fishing tackle, which is illegal in Maine. Stop using lead tackle!
- The Annual Audubon Loon Count will take place on July 20th from 7:00-7:30 am. Contact Steve or Kim Lajoie to participate



- **LakeSmart:** free opportunity to learn how to manage your home and yard to protect the lake. Maine Lake Society managed.
- LakeSmart improves water quality. Builds our creditability. Improves property value.
- **Three new LakeSmart properties in 2018** – Babcock’s, Majka, Stratham.
- Now at 35 properties
- 2016 Maine Lakes Society Golden Achievement Award
- Please let your neighbors know of this free and effective program!
- For more information contact Martha Drew at 4650drew@twc.com

Sign up today!



**LD 959 Funded by
the ME Legislature –
more support for
LakeSmart!**



Its not complicated - tiers planted with trees, groundcover and small bushes slow the runoff on the hill. Bare areas have been covered with erosion control mix.

- New ME law, [LD 216](#), requires septic system inspections for the purchase of lakefront properties starting in 2020. The buyer is responsible to ensure the inspection is completed.

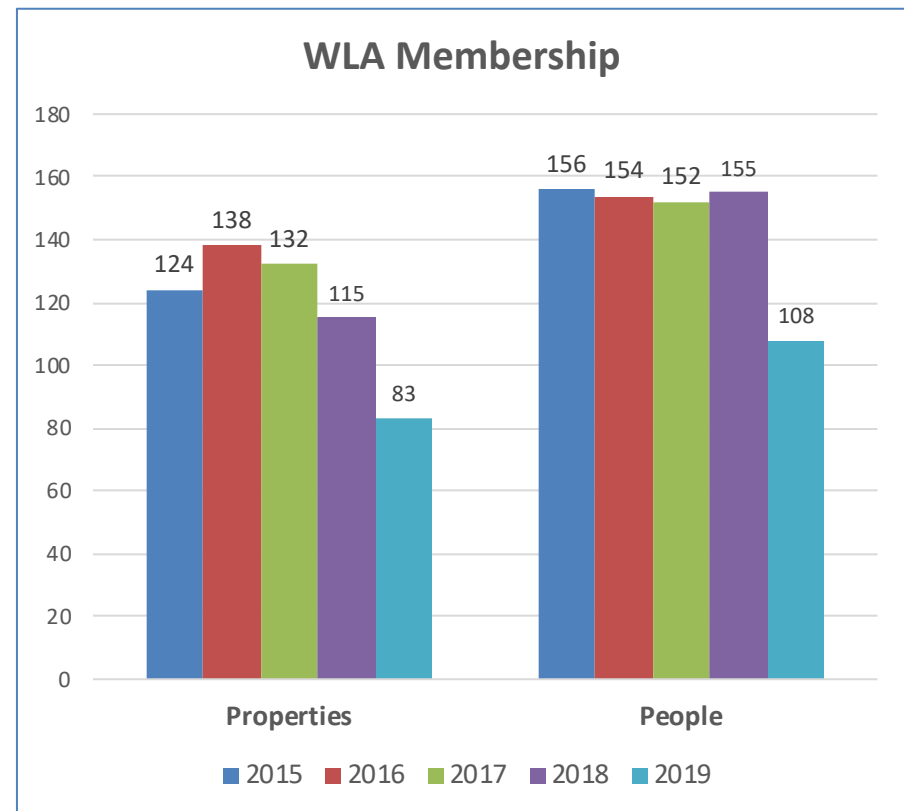


Please note: Septic systems vary. Diagram is not to scale.

- Route 113 culvert replacement (at Page Brook) planned for this summer. Will be a “wildlife friendly” culvert.
 - MaineDOT public meeting July 30 6:00 pm at Standish Town Hall to gather input. More at <https://www.maine.gov/mdot/events/>

- Members as of 7/5/2019
 - People: 108
 - Properties: 83
- Many previous members have not yet renewed
- Expect about a 20-30 more in coming month
- Of lake front properties, ~35% are members and of non-lakefront properties ~22% are members

As of 7/5



Encourage your friends and neighbors to join today!

Encourage Member Engagement

Ice Cream Boat

**Saturday July 27 (rain date July 28)
Free ice cream. Learn about the lake.**

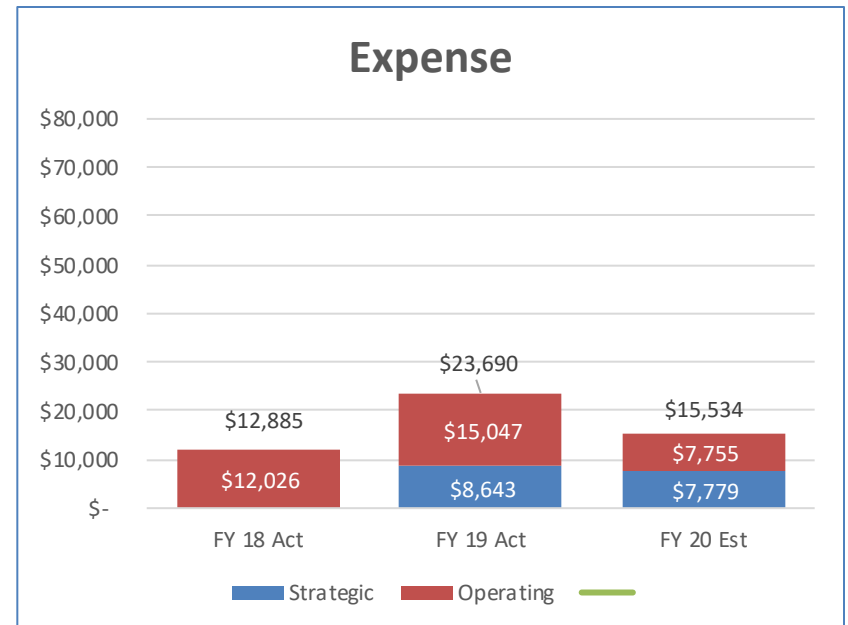
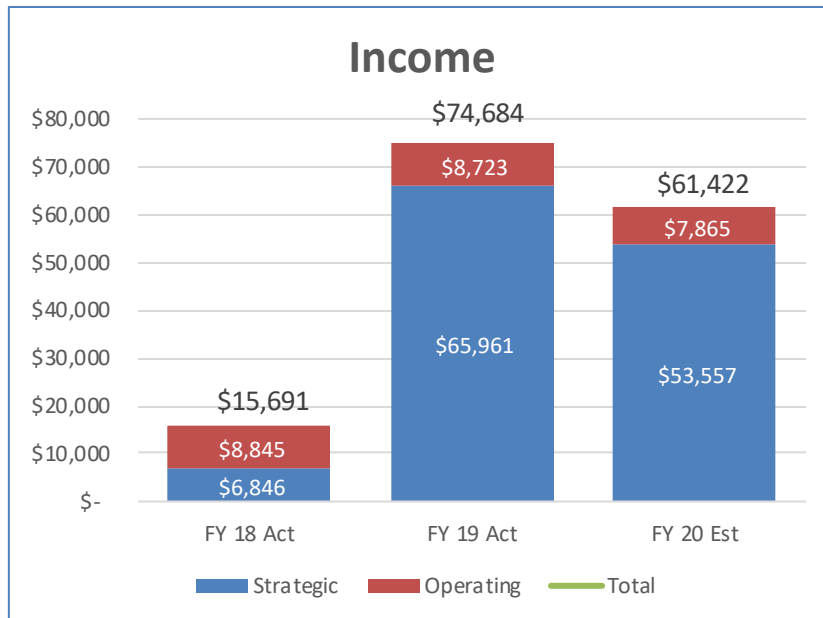


Tie Up

**August date TBD – watch the website
Hook up your boat, canoe or yourself and
meet your neighbors on the lake**



- Splitting operating and strategic income/expense tracking for better control and transparency.
- FY19 (year end 6/30/19) negative net operating income (-\$6k). But overall positive due to larger strategic donations.
- FY 20 breakeven operating income, assuming no major unfunded projects. Volunteers take on more water quality testing.



As of 6/30/19 Operating Savings: \$40,414. Strategic Savings: \$104,925

2019 Stewardship Program

- Dues and small donations only cover ongoing operating expenses (website, mailings, basic testing)
- Protecting the lake for the long term requires we are prepared to:
 - **Rapidly respond to an invasive infestation**
 - Quickly address “100 year storms”
 - Evaluate and quickly address major algal blooms
- Removing invasives is expensive and time sensitive
 - \$50,000 to \$75,000 for initial removal (using certified removal firm)
 - \$20,000 per year for mechanical invasive removal.
- To fund these initiatives and help us secure other grants, our goal is to raise \$350,000 over the next ten years (2019-2028).
 - Initial donors have pledged over \$100,000 of support
- This new funds builds on the success of our 2009 program and then fixing major risks to the lake.
- We’d greatly appreciate your support over the next ten years!

Readiness to address big issues quickly.



Removing Eurasian milfoil

Our Mission: protecting and improving the ecosystem of Watchic Lake and the watershed.

- In 2019 we started updating our **1999** Watchic Lake watershed protection plan.
- Field scientists have conducted surveys of Watchic Lake, the two tributaries, and other areas identified as high priority in the earlier report...



Review by:
Maggie Burns, Hydrologist
FB Environmental Associates

- **Nominations for Board:**

- Stacey Kane 3 years
- Paul McNulty 3 years
- Agnes Wiggin 3 years
- Terry Babcock 3 years
- Bob Babcock 1 year

- **Nominations for Officers:**

- President Owen Smith 2 years
- Vice President Steve Lajoie 2 years
- Secretary Martha Drew 1 year
- Historian Martha Drew 2 years

- **Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes**

- Minutes published on website August 2018

Prospective Board Member Bio's

- **Stacey Kane** is a professional photographer and graphic designer. Stacey lives year round in Scarborough with her husband of 30 years, Chris. They have 3 children - daughter Devan (23), son Braeden (22) and son Brogan (18) and a yellow lab puppy, Dash. The daughter of Steve and Pat Center, Stacey and her children have grown up at the lake and it's a very important part of their lives. She wants to be involved with preserving and promoting the specialness of Watchic Lake and hopes to someday watch the next generation of her family grow up enjoying and loving it too.
- **Terry Fay-Babcock** first moved to Watchic Lake in December, 2002. She and her husband, Bob, purchased their most recent home on Toria Lane in 2015 where they live with their puppy, Tuukka. Terry is also thankful to have her Mother live in the apartment downstairs. Terry recently retired as a program manager from Verizon and as she is looking for her next move, she looks forward to working with the WLA volunteers and learning more about how she can support this great organization.
- **Robert Babcock** spent the summers at Bonney Eagle Pond in Buxton growing up. He moved to Watchic Lake after he and his wife, Terry, were married and they bought their most recent home on Toria Lane in 2015. An avid hockey player, you may see him trying to skate the lake in the winter or designing a skating rink in front of his home. He likes to spend his summers doing endless projects around his home or parents camp on Bonney Eagle or fishing around the lake. Bob works for Ultradent Products, Inc. and looks forward to participating in the ice cream boat event with WLA volunteers.

- **Shorter Term** - targeted activities to address key risks:
 - Continue with rich, consistent, and certified water testing. Team with volunteers, DEP and LSM on reporting.
 - Continue invasive and water quality monitoring, teaming with Maine Audubon and BRI on loons
 - Keep the dam in good working order and manage water level.
- **Longer Term**
 - Complete Watershed Management Plan and partner with the town regarding landscaping, address remaining hi-risk runoff areas.
 - Increase funds via Stewardship program and grants to rapidly address major issues

Thank you! Your time today and throughout the year is a gift to the lake and all who use it.



Thank you!



Courtesy Patty Taylor