



Watchic Lake Association

Annual Member Meeting Minutes, July 11, 2020

Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the meeting was held online, via Zoom. The meeting was called to order by President Owen Smith at 10:00 a.m. A certificate of mailing was filed with the secretary, with the meeting notice mailed on June 2, 2020. A quorum was established with 33 members present. Steve Lajoie reviewed the logistics of the meeting, explaining the voting process and about using the “chat” function to ask questions.

Owen introduced the PowerPoint presentation and summarized the work directed by the board and various committees over the past year. He noted that our biggest challenge continues to be mitigating runoff into the lake.

Cathy Watson, Water Quality Committee chair, spoke about monitoring water quality, noting that lake quality has stayed about the same over the past three years. Deep water oxygen depletion in early July is a concern, as is the growth of metaphyton algae, both of which are worsened by human activity as well as the effects of a warming environment.

Steve Lajoie, Environmental Committee chair, spoke about the annual plant inventory which in past years has identified 23 aquatic species in the lake. There were no invasive species found during the 2019 inventory day. Steve stressed the importance of making sure that boats, planes, and fishing gear should be clean before going into the lake. The date of this year’s inventory will be posted on the association website. Kim Lajoie gave an update on loons on the lake, noting that we have just one nesting pair on the west end of the lake this year, with no chicks yet. Boat strikes have surpassed lead poisoning as the number one threat to loons. The statewide loon count will be on July 18, 2020, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m.; information is on the website.

Paul McNulty discussed a DEP grant application that could support up to \$125,000 projects to address runoff the lake and in the watershed. The application has received preliminary approval, with final approval expected in September. Work to be done under the grant includes culvert repairs, runoff mitigation on some of the roads around the lake, and runoff mitigation on several properties. Matching funds and labor will be provided by the Town of Standish, the Watchic Lake Association, and individuals, with work to be done in calendar years 2021 and 2022.

The fundraising initiative announced last year is on hold during this time of economic instability. Donations to support the long term health of the lake may still be made through the WatchicLake.org website.

Stacey Kane announced a new on-line store for lake items. A link to the store will be available on the association website and all sales will support the lake.

Treasurer Agnes Wiggin reviewed the financial reports for the year ending June 30, 2020, which are available on the website.

Martha Drew, chair of the LakeSmart Committee, presented awards to William and Elva Houlihan, Dave and Elaine Bradbury, and Dave and Eileen Burnell. A homeowner survey, the first step in the LakeSmart process, has been posted on the website.

Martha Drew presented the proposed nominations - to the board for three years: Robert Babcock, Martha Drew, Steve Lajoie, Owen Smith, Cathy Watson, and David West; for officers for two years – Agnes Wiggin, Treasurer, Martha Drew, Secretary. All nominations were approved unanimously. The minutes of the July 6, 2019, annual meeting were approved unanimously.

Steve and Kim Lajoie presented the Unsung Hero award to Paul McNulty, for his years of service on the board and as a past president. Paul was instrumental in developing the DEP grant proposal and in establishing the Stewardship Fund, and has put in hundreds of hours with newsletters, the website, and developing community relations.

The meeting concluded at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Drew,
Secretary, Watchic Lake Association