



Watchic Lake Association

Annual Member Meeting Minutes, July 9, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Paul McNulty at 9:07 a.m., at Standish Town Hall. A certificate of mailing was filed with the secretary, with the meeting notice mailed and emailed on June 24, 2022. A quorum was established with 32 members present.

Paul McNulty 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 40 plus years.

Steve Lajoie, Environmental Committee chair, spoke about the annual plant inventory; no invasive species have been found in the lake. Steve stressed the importance of making sure that boats, planes, and fishing gear should be clean before going into the lake. This year's plant inventory will be on August 20; information will be posted on the association website.

Erica LeBrun spoke briefly about the problem of swimmer's itch, caused by a parasite passed from duck droppings, to snails, then to humans. Watchic has an active infestation of invasive Chinese mystery snails contributing to this problem. Feeding the ducks contributes to the problem and was strongly discouraged.

Kim Lajoie gave an update on loons on the lake, noting that one chick hatched on the west end of the lake, but it has not been seen for the past several days, and is feared lost. Kim stressed that loon chick mortality is high in Maine, and reviewed the most common causes - trauma, respiratory illnesses, and weather and climate change. The statewide loon count will be on July 16, 2022, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m.; information is on the website

Paul McNulty presented an update on the Section 319 DEP grant. Work to be done under the grant includes culvert repairs, runoff mitigation on some of the roads around the lake, and runoff mitigation on six lakefront properties. Matching funds and labor will be provided by the Town of Standish, the Watchic Lake Association, and individuals, with work to be completed in the fall.

Martha Drew, chair of the LakeSmart Committee, presented an award to Monica Mahoney and Rob Brisk and encouraged others to join the LakeSmart ranks. A homeowner survey, the first step in the LakeSmart process, is available on the website.

Owen Smith, Dam Committee Chair, reported that the lake has reached full pond. The dam was opened on November 2, 2021 and closed on March 28, 2022, the day after ice-out. The lake will be lowered around November 1 this year.

Nancy McNulty, chair of the Education Committee, reviewed educational initiatives over the past year. She also announced a tour and shoreland educational workshop at LakeSmart properties for people to get ideas of ways to prevent runoff and protect the lake, scheduled for August 13, and encouraged people to sign up.

Maggie Mills from FB Environmental gave an interesting presentation reviewing the 319 grant and providing guidance on mitigating runoff. FB Environmental has been partnering with WLA in administering the 319 DEP grant.

As Membership Chair, Paul McNulty reviewed membership numbers for this year. Last year had the highest membership ever, at 161, representing 112 properties. A social event has been planned to encourage new members. A "Meet Your Neighbors Night" will be held at the Outpost Restaurant on July 20, from 5:30 to 7:00

p.m. and the Ice Cream Boat is back, to deliver free ice cream cups around the lake on August 21. Paul also announced a new Hero Donor program which provides incentives for donations to the Strategic Fund. More information is available on the website.

Treasurer Agnes Wiggin reviewed the financial reports for the year ending June 30, 2022, which are available on the website. The state of WLA finances is positive.

Paul McNulty thanked Kim Lajoie for her service on the board. Martha Drew presented the proposed nominations - to the board for three years: Rob Brisk, Rick Wiggin, Stacey Kane, and Agnes Wiggin; to the board for two years: Paul McNulty, and for officers for two years: Martha Drew, Secretary and Agnes Wiggin, Treasurer. All nominations were approved by consent. The minutes of the July 10, 2021, annual meeting were approved by consent.

Cathy Watson presented the Unsung Hero award to Eileen and David Burnell, for their years of service monitoring lake quality. The Burnells have been lake monitors for more than 40 years on Watchic Lake and continue to take bi-weekly secchi disk and dissolved oxygen readings.

The meeting concluded at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Drew
Secretary, Watchic Lake Association