



Watchic Lake Association

Annual Member Meeting Minutes, July 8, 2023

Approved July 6, 2024 at the WLA Annual Meeting.

The meeting was called to order by President Paul McNulty at 9:10 a.m., at Standish Town Hall. A certificate of mailing was filed with the secretary, with the meeting notice mailed and emailed on June 14, 2023. A quorum was established with 47 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. She noted that the biggest concern is low oxygen levels at the lower depths of the lake coming earlier each year. In addition to affecting fish, this can lead to phosphorus turnover, which can lead to algae blooms. Malfunctioning septic systems can be a major factor in this cycle and she urged people to have their septic systems pumped and inspected every three to five years.

Steve Lajoie, Environmental Committee chair, spoke about the toxic dangers of cyanobacteria, which isn't a problem in Watchic Lake yet, but is caused by fertilizers and runoff phosphates, and therefore a potential problem. Last year's annual plant inventory found no invasive species 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 5; information will be posted on the association website. Steve also gave the annual update on our loons. We have three nesting pairs, on Blueberry, Middle, and Big Islands. These three pairs have produced four chicks. The statewide loon count will be on July 15, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m.; information is on the website.

The guest speaker this year was James Paruk, an authority on loons who lives in Gorham and teaches at St. Joseph's College and USM. He gave an entertaining and enlightening talk on what he's learned about loons after many years of study. His book, Loon Lessons, was available for sale.

Paul McNulty presented an update on the Section 319 DEP grant. Work under the grant, including culvert repairs, runoff mitigation on some of the roads around the lake, and runoff mitigation on several lakefront properties was completed last fall. Matching funds and labor were provided by the Town of Standish, the Watchic Lake Association, and individual property owners.

Martha Drew, chair of the LakeSmart Committee, introduced Monica Mahoney, a newly certified LakeSmart evaluator who 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, explained how the lake level is determined and the challenges of rain, wind, and other factors facing the people trying to regulate the level. A tour of the dam is scheduled for July 22, for anyone interested in learning more; information is available on the website. The dam will be opened around November 1 this year.

Paul McNulty reviewed membership and financial information, noting record membership last year. Copies of the financial reports were available at the meeting and are available on the website. He also talked about garden tours being offered to let people see what others have done to prevent runoff into the lake. More information on the garden tours is available on the website.

Paul McNulty thanked Martha Drew, Steve Lajoie, Cathy Watson, and David West for their service on the board. He presented the proposed nominations to the board for three years: Travis Roney, David Burnell, Stephanie Parker, William Murray, Owen Smith, and Chris Martino. **Patty Guenther moved that the secretary cast one ballot for the nominations as presented. Stacey Kane seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Paul presented the following nominations for officers for two years: Paul McNulty, President and Nancy McNulty, Historian. **Patty Guenther moved that the secretary cast one ballot for the nominations as presented. Rick Wiggin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.** Reading of the minutes of the July 9, 2022 were dispensed with by consent. **Erica Lebrun moved that the minutes be approved as presented. Rob Brisk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

Martha Drew presented the Unsung Hero award to Steve Center, for his years of service to the association and to the lake, citing his leadership of many major projects and his unique fundraising skills.

The meeting concluded at 10:55.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Drew