



Watchic Lake Association Annual Member Meeting Minutes, July 12, 2026

President Stephanie Parker called the meeting to order at 10:07am and thanked the Decrows for allowing us to use the Outpost for this year's meeting. She also thanked the current board members and committee members for their help and support.

Stephanie covered the agenda.

Stephanie then covered the Water Quality report. David, Eileen, and Cathy Watson do most of our water testing and we have the benefit of readings dating back to the 1970s, so we have lots of data. We are trending to later ice in and earlier ice off. This is a trend across the entire state.

Over time our overall water clarity has been fairly stable and overall is pretty good. A comparison of our depth profiles since 1977 was presented and shows an overall warming trend over the years. Other parameters we test for include alkalinity, chlorophyll, color, pH, etc. Phosphorus is an area of concern with higher concentration trends in bottom water grabs due to runoff.

Stephanie then talked about the ongoing algae blooms we have been experiencing and what encourages them. Metaphyton, cyanobacteria, and golden algae are the most common forms we tend to see. Cyanobacteria is of primary concern currently because it can produce toxins. We usually see Cyanobacteria blooms in the fall, though we have seen some blooms already this summer. We have some new rapid tests to see if blooms are producing toxins. Travis asked where the tests come from (Amazon), and it was noted that if folks want to perform their own tests, they can assess water safety in their area.

Monica Mahoney then spoke about Lake Smart evaluations and encouraged people to sign up to have their property evaluated. She discussed the areas that Lake Smart evaluates on your property for helping to reduce runoff and improve the overall health of the lake. Our local LakeSmart volunteers will evaluate your property, though the state-wide organization (Maine Lakes) makes the final determination whether your property wins a LakeSmart award. She covered some of the ideal conditions on your property to help keep the shoreline healthy. The most recent award winners include Julie Butler, Steve and Peggy McNair, Steve Center, and Molly Hayes.

In 2026, an anonymous donor has offered a \$5000 donation to match shoreline improvements through the LakeSmart program made around the lake. They will match up to \$1000 per property for any LakeSmart-recommended improvements. Interested people can contact Monica Mahoney or any of the LakeSmart evaluators on the lake.

Eileen Burnell then discussed the Native Buffer Workshop, where Whaleback Nursery in Limington provided useful information and native plants for Watchic's buffer zone. The workshop was held on June 13th. She discussed and showed samples of many of the plant species, and additional buffer plants were available for

members to take home from this meeting.

She then talked about the Wild Seed Project from last year and asked if people were able to plan their packets (for those who took one last year). She encouraged people to talk with Whaleback for an evaluation on which species of plants would be good for their property and buffer areas.

Stephanie then discussed the Invasive Plant Monitoring project. This year's inventory will be on August 16th. She also encouraged people to keep a lookout for anything unusual or concerning. She discussed how we also try to inventory native species as well as invasives. She also gave reminders for people to always check all boats, fishing gear, and other items that have been in other bodies of water for any vegetation before putting them in the water.

Stephanie then talked about the Yellow Iris problem. It's an invasive shoreline plant that has been identified on Watchic Lake. She talked about why the Yellow Iris is a problem and the efforts we are taking to remove it from our lake. She also encouraged people to remove any Yellow Iris on their property, how to do it, and to encourage their neighbors to do the same.

A video was shown detailing how to remove the Yellow Iris, which is available on the WLA's social media and website.

Stephanie then talked about the milfoil infestation on Little Sebago. Their lake association sent us some great information on their efforts to mitigate the infestation. As of 2024, 37 tons of milfoil have been removed from Little Sebago at a total cost of over 1.1 million dollars since discovery. Their 2026 budget for this was \$92,000 alone.

Rob S. spoke about the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plan. The original plan was written in 2022, and we have started to update and improve the plan to be more operational, detailing what to do in the event of an invasive species making its way into the lake. Prevention, preparation, detection, rapid response, and resources. Looking at the Little Sebago case study, rapid response is key. We should have a small group of people who know exactly what to do and who to contact when and if it happens.

He then gave a few examples of other local lakes, their experiences, and costs associated with mitigation. He encouraged people to be vigilant, report anything concerning, join the plant paddles, and/or join the AIS team.

An update on the loons. In 2026 there have been two sets of parents each with a new chick this year. There have also been 3-4 younger loons spotted around the lake. The annual loon count will be held on July 18th and all are welcome to participate.

David Burnell gave an update on the dam. This year we had to perform a temporary repair to the spillway that should last two to three years. We will likely need to do a more permanent repair soon. He also reported a new issue this year of sand build up in front of the dam. It was cleared out and is no longer a concern. We also installed a staff gauge on the dam for monitoring the lake level. We are trying to maintain the lake at full pond (the 2 foot mark on the gauge).

A question was asked on the potential cost for the dam repairs. David estimated about \$1000-1500.

Stephanie then talked about membership and donations. We currently have 153 members across 101 properties. Both were small decreases in numbers from last year.

Cathy then gave a financial update on our Operating Income and expenses. We went slightly over budget this year, primarily due to the yellow iris efforts. Our strategic fund balance has been increasing, primarily due to interest gains.

Rob Brisk then talked about a new fundraising campaign to raise \$250,000 to be ready for specific threats to the lake, such as aquatic invasives. Phase I was to talk to a few large donors and we have commitments of \$125,000 from that. Phase 2 is asking the rest of the membership. We will be asking for pledges and donations to be made over the next five years. He gave the example of Little Sebago and how they had some time from initial detection until action was taken and how that delay may have impacted their current state. That we need the resources to act quickly and without delay.

Stephanie then talked about upcoming activities, including the Watchic Fun Day at Kiwanis Beach. Please reach out to Rick Green (or any other board members) if you want to volunteer. Volunteers are needed!

Rob Brisk then took votes for board officers. Stephanie Parker has been nominated for a second 2-year term as president. Travis Roney has completed his term as vice president. David Burnell has been nominated for a 2-year term as vice president. Stephanie and David were approved for their respective positions/terms.

Minutes from the 2025 Annual meeting were approved.

Stephanie then gave closing remarks and opened the floor to questions and comments.

Meeting was adjourned - 11:46am