

**Wentworth Watershed Association
Annual Meeting Minutes – August 11, 2019**

Welcome – Anne Blodget

Anne noted that the Association is coming up on three years in existence. There are many updates to report. Among them are:

- We raised \$325,000 for the Heath Brook Campaign and closed on the parcel in February. Anne offered another thank-you to donors and gave kudos to Julie Brown and Carl Crosley for their work on the project.
- We always need volunteers, and Julie will be reaching out for specific activities.
- We are welcoming two new board members, and the board will meet to review and revise the strategic plan for the Association.
- Many have attended Association programs over the spring and summer. Anne asked for feedback so we can refine our programming.
- We have a strong partnership with the Town of Wolfeboro, and we are often cited as a role model for conservation work.

Anne reminded attendees that the town's public hearing on the revised master plan is set for Tuesday, August 27 at The Great Hall and encouraged people to attend.

She encouraged members and others to keep up with news of the Association through email Zephyrs, the once-a-year annual paper Zephyr, Facebook, and Instagram

Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby – Susan Goodwin and Kate Baldwin

Kate and Susan awarded the medals to the derby winners. This year, there was an emphasis on good fishing ethics, with a special Conscientious Fishing Award given in honor of Ben Baldwin.

Loon Preservation Committee – Caroline Hughes, Volunteer & Outreach Coordinator

Caroline presented facts about the Common Loon and noted that Lake Wentworth has a couple of banded loons (near Wentworth State Park and Brummit Island). This year, Wentworth saw the hatching of two chicks to each of two nesting pairs. One of the chicks was eaten by an eagle; the pair near Brummit Island still has two chicks. She noted that, by contrast, Lake Winnepesaukee, a much larger water body, has just two chicks.

Caroline commented on the unique threats that loons face from things like shoreline development, mammal and avian predators, close contact by paddlers or other boaters, and contaminants (PFAS, PCBs, and other pesticides). She said that the biggest threat to loon health is lead fishing tackle. The Loon Preservation Committee collects and autopsies dead loons in NH. Since 1987, lead fishing tackle is responsible for about 44 percent of loon deaths. The Committee was founded in 1975 to help reverse the decline in loon population. Its loon cam has been viewed by people in all 50 states and more than 200 countries. Among its activities, the group builds loon nests and float signs to keep people away from nests and conducts loon rescues. They also have a lead buy-back program (see loonsafe.org for list of shops that buy

back tackle). LPC research includes activity to identify and prevent threats to loons. In addition, they monitor 350 lakes in the state, with a crew of about eight workers. Caroline noted that the population of Common Loons in NH has tripled, from some 100 pairs in 1975 to more than 300 pairs as of last year.

Loon Census – Hugh Crawford

Hugh reported that there were 22 adult loons sighted during census, plus four chicks and one immature loon (one of the chicks was lost to an eagle after the census). An eagle attacked and destroyed an egg in the Brewster Heath nest; the second egg did not yield a chick. Hugh encouraged attendees to join the LPC to further their work.

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were approved.

Nominating & Governance Committee – Bob Spear

Nominated to continue on the board were:

Two-year term (2021) – Hugh Crawford

One-year term (2020) – Linda Crootof

Three-year terms (2022) – Andrea Dudley, Peter Galanis, Joan Green and Bob Spear

Nominated as new members of the board for three-year terms (2022) – Kathy Lynch and Susan Hirshberg

Dive Team and Weed Watching Report – Tom Ouhrabka

Tom reported that the Dive Team is tasked with hand-pulling milfoil and that they're getting the job done. Crescent Lake is just about clear, but Tom said we should expect a regrowth.

Goodwin Basin will be chemically treated next June, and we have a couple of brooks in Lake Wentworth and Brewster Heath that need attention. The Weed Watchers -- who number about 40 – are very helpful to Dive Team in marking spots that need attention.

News and Updates – Julie Brown, Executive Director

Volunteers – Julie acknowledged the volunteers of the organization and the supportive and active board. She noted that committee members are always needed for things such as water quality monitoring, land stewardship, and pulling invasives.

Brewster Heath Preserve – The trail through the area was built last weekend and the six-car parking lot is currently being built. Julie will be meeting with Brewster Academy about curriculum activity. Students at Kingswood Regional High School and Brewster are forming a land conservation committee.

Water Quality – Seven subcommittees are managing the water quality work for the Association. The Lake Host program was a success although it had to rely on volunteers for a large part of the summer. The NH Department of Environmental Services just announced the award of a \$100,000 EPA grant to the Association and the town for a fourth phase of work on

projects identified in the 2012 watershed management plan. Construction work on Phase III at Camp Bernadette and on Route 109, will begin in the fall.

Other Updates – Julie Brown

The Summer Zephyr – issued in late July – was intended to be an evergreen edition, with tips for residents and visitors.

Julie announced that we would like more Watershed Reps throughout the area, not just on the lake shores.

The Association's web site will be revamped this year.

Upcoming events include the Full Moon Paddle and the Stamp Act Island Walk on August 17 and the Camp Dinner on August 30.

Moment of Silence – Joan Green

Joan read the names of those watershed friends who had passed away during the past year.

They included:

Joseph Anderer – 8/1/19

Philip Anderson – 4/13/19

Anna Cavaliere – 7/25/19

Michael Gery – 11/21/18

Douglas Grearson – 2/3/19

Shirley Greenwald – 3/14/19

Robert Heck – 8/1/18

Rosamonde Little – 4/3/19

Barton Menzin – 1/14/18

Robert Morneau – 4/14/19

Henry Pollak – 2/15/19

Kenneth Roberts – 8/27/18

Seth Robinson Snow – 4/20/19

Lee Walker Sr. – 12/25/18

An attendee noted that Bob Smart had also died recently. Those who are aware of other deaths were asked to notify the office staff.

The Association's annual report is available online; a limited number of printed copies is available in the office. Office hours are from 9-1, Monday through Friday.

Julie met with representatives of Kingswood Golf Club regarding continued runoff issues. She reported that the new grounds superintendent seemed receptive to discussion of the issues, but there is more work to be done with both them and Kingswood Regional High School officials.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.