

**Wentworth Watershed Association Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes – August 8, 2020**

There were about 50 participants joining the virtual meeting held via Zoom.

President Anne Blodget welcomed attendees and highlighted priority work areas and projects of the past year. She recognized retiring board members Linda Crootof and Bob Spear for their years of service.

Executive Director Julie Brown provided updates on a number of topics including water quality, land conservation, and programs.

Water Quality

Julie thanked the volunteer water sampling teams for their efforts. She reported that the Association continues to participate in the Lakes Lay Monitoring program with UNH Cooperative Extension. The results of the sampling efforts from 2019 show that lake health of Crescent Lake and Lake Wentworth remains stable for now. Lake Wentworth continues to have poor, or eutrophic, conditions at its deepest depth, showing that it is impaired from phosphorus-loading over time and reminding us that we need to do everything we can to lessen this trend by taking action to improve water quality.

The volunteer stream samplers work to sample 14 tributary sites in the watershed, once each in spring summer, and fall, during or after a major rain event. This effort helps us learn where stormwater and contaminants are entering the watershed before reaching the lakes. Over time, these data will help us identify areas of interest in the uplands that require investigation and mitigation to address sediment and phosphorus-loading at their source.

Watershed Assistance (319) Grants

Julie said that the Association's grant team, working in collaboration with the town of Wolfeboro, ensured that the Camp Bernadette Stormwater Reduction Project was completed. Julie noted that the team had hoped that the project could be on display at the Camp Dinner which had to be cancelled. Next year!

Unfortunately, the planned work on Route 109 near Triggs Landing will not take place. After many hours work by the town, our project engineer, the volunteer committee and the staff, this phase of the project had to be cancelled because of ownership issues and conflict between the Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Department of Environmental Services (DES). While this is not an uncommon occurrence, it was a disappointment to the team.

In 2020, the town and the Association kicked off our partnership for the Phase 4 construction project that will address stormwater issues at three sites: Camp Pierce Birchmont on Governor's Shore, a beach in the Wentworth Park neighborhood, and the Harvey Brook crossing of Route 28 near the New Hampshire Boat Museum. This phase has been awarded \$100,000 in federal monies by EPA and NHDES, matched by \$75,000 in town and Association

funds and services. The town has secured a contact with an engineering firm and will be moving forward with the planning portion of the project. Physical work on the sites will begin next summer.

Milfoil Team updates

During the summer of 2019 – as part of a Town of Wolfeboro initiative – professional divers equipped with a DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvester) boat pulled milfoil in Brewster Heath and in two brooks east of the Allen Albee Beach on Lake Wentworth. Volunteer Association divers and their on-the-water support team also worked to pull weeds in Devil’s Cove on Crescent Lake. An examination of Goodwin Basin, which had received significant work to reduce milfoil in past years, didn’t find any of the invasive weed. Pulling work has continued in all these areas in 2020. So far, the pulling has been limited and the work of these volunteers has paid off with less milfoil than we have seen in years.

Julie thanked the 30 volunteer weed watchers, the dive team and their surface support team. She noted that additional volunteers are always needed.

Lake Hosts

During the summer, eight volunteers and two paid Lake Hosts worked a total of 398 hours at Mast Landing. They inspected some 1,533 boats and talked to boaters about steps they could take to stop the spread of invasive aquatic species.

Land Conservation

The dream of establishing a multi-use land preserve in Brewster Heath that is accessible to the public became a reality in February 2019 when the Association completed the purchase of the 111-acre Brewster Health Preserve. Since then, the Association worked with Richard Baldwin to complete construction of a six-car parking area just off McManus Road. A team of volunteers, under the direction of Association member Peter Goodwin, created a one-mile trail loop that is open for public use on the preserve. An additional loop, that required bridging a seasonal stream, was completed this summer.

The best news about this new trail is that it connects Crescent Lake School to the Heath, allowing for quick and easy access to this natural classroom for teachers and students. Coming soon is an outdoor classroom near the Heath and an information kiosk at the parking lot.

Julie announced that the Brewster Health Preserve has been expanded with the donation of the McBride Conservation Area. She thanked Don McBride who donated a 23-acre parcel of conservation land to the Association. This property is the land that connects the Heath and Crescent Lake.

Julie said that the Association is asking members to contribute to a small land stewardship fund that is needed for this property’s maintenance in the future.

Julie noted the installation of two beaver deceivers to stop a dam on the Association's Square Hill property in the area of Sargent's Pond from flooding nearby septic fields.

Education Programs

Because of the COVID 19 pandemic, the Association had to cancel the landscaper's education event and the fourth annual Water Summit. Because educational tips could not be passed along at those events, Julie reminded attendees to regularly inspect and maintain their septic tanks and leach fields, don't do anything in the lakes except for recreation, and infiltrate roof and other water runoff on their property. She said the Association will be building a stormwater garden at the group's office later in August and will be looking for volunteers to help build this demonstration project.

In spite of the pandemic, the Association was able to sponsor a number of programs, including a Fourth of July boat parade. Julie thanked everyone who participated in that event.

The Association also successfully pulled off its first ever virtual Ben Baldwin Fishing Derby. Since entrants had to submit photos of the fish they landed, this year awards were given for the longest, not the heaviest fish. Julie thanked everyone for adapting to the new rules and submitting their entries via Facebook. The Association encouraged all participants to be prepared, stay safe, demonstrate good fishing ethics, and to take care of the fish and their habitat. In honor of Ben Baldwin's dream to become a Fish & Game Officer, a special award, The Conscientious Fisher Award, was given to the participant who demonstrated these ethics. Contestants were asked to submit a short video of themselves explaining what they do to stay safe and keep the fish and the environment healthy. This year, several outstanding fishers submitted entries to be considered for the award to honor Ben's memory – including Jenny Baldwin, Charlie Chick, Henry O'Blenes, Liam Murray, and last year's recipient, Grace Koch. The winner of the 2020 Conscientious Fisher Award is 7-year-old Liam Murray. He was awarded a gift certificate to Dive Winnepesaukee.

Julie noted that there are still several events taking place this summer and early fall with social distancing protocols in place. She encouraged everyone to check the Association's website for additional information. She announced the inaugural Lights Out in the Watershed Event. Help Everyone is being asked to darken the night sky on August 11 from 9-10 pm so that we can enjoy a stellar view of the Perseid meteor shower.

Because of the pandemic, the Association has cancelled its annual Camp Dinner and will not hold its season-closing event during Columbus Day weekend.

In other business, minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were approved, with voting conducted via Survey Monkey.

Jerry Calvert presented the report of the Nominating & Governance Committee, entering the names of Rich Gold, Kevin Green, and Steve Johnson into nomination for three-year terms as new trustees. He said the committee also recommended election of six returning board

members: Anne Blodget, Carl Crosley, Susan Goodwin, and Roger Murray for three-year terms and Jerry Calvert and Tom Ouhrabka for one-year terms. The terms for Jerry and Tom were shortened to balance the term expiration dates for the board. Each indicated that he would like to stand for reelection at the end of the one-year term.

Jerry requested that anyone with suggestions on possible board members reach out to Anne or Julie since it's never too early to begin work for next year.

[Online voting for trustees was to remain open through August 9. Subsequent to the annual meeting, the slate of officers was approved by those members voting via Survey Monkey.]

Joan Green reported the names of those who had passed away in the last year. The group observed a moment of silence for:

Madelyn Albee	7/1/20
James Dolce	1/5/20
Marcia Gaudette	5/21/20
Donald Kennedy	10/16/19
Virginia "Nancy" Muldoon	5/12/20
Patricia Nordenschild	10/23/19
Eleanor Peternel	4/16/20
Anne Roome	1/11/20
Ann Segura	10/1/19
Bob Smart	8/4/19
Walter Spellman	5/17/20

The meeting was adjourned at 10 am.