

WEBSTER LAKE ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
August 1, 2020 - Via Zoom

Call to order:

By Val Perkins, President, at 9:40am. There were 27 in attendance for the 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the WLA.

Board Members Present: Brian Campbell, John Miller, Ted Starkweather, Bonnie Moore, Val Perkins, Joan Ingersoll, Laurie Salame and Marcia Feener

Board members absent: Debbie Steadman

Val introduced the board members present.

The 2019 annual meeting minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Brian Campbell, seconded by John Miller.

John Miller, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report for August 2019 - July 2020. The balance in the WLA account as of July 31, 2019 was \$45,298.10. John reported that despite revenue-generating events such as Breakfast on the Beach and the Yard Sale being cancelled, the bottom line this year was within \$83 of last year, which is excellent. Donations were up by \$1000 over last year and Val Perkins negotiated a higher interest rate for our CD. Other expense such as the Lake Host program were lower than last year. We came in right about on budget after everything netted out so we are in good shape.

There was a question regarding Lake Maintenance expense and John explained this is for the diver who is removing Milfoil from Chance Pond.

The Treasurer's report was approved as presented on a motion by Joan Ingersoll, seconded by Brian Campbell.

Val Perkins reported that Laurie Salame is retiring after serving on the WLA board since 2008. Val recognized Laurie for her many contributions including managing the Lake Host program, tirelessly coordinating the WLA Yard Sale, overseeing the septic survey project, managing the social media pages for the WLA, serving as Vice President and acting as the legal guru, helping with bylaws, policies and other matters.

Laurie's resignation created an opening on the board and there were two WLA members interested in the position – Kim Bonin of Lake Shore Drive and Karen Kosovsky of Webster Avenue. Both candidates had the opportunity to introduce themselves and speak about their background and their interest in serving on the WLA board. After a quorum of eligible voters was certified by Laurie Salame, Val asked each voting member to state their vote, with Joan Ingersoll, Secretary, recording and tallying the votes. A total of 22 votes were cast with 15 votes for Kim Bonin and 7 votes for Karen Kosovsky. Val Perkins welcomed Kim Bonin to the WLA Board.

There was a brief discussion about whether to increase the number of board members to 10. It was felt that keeping it at 9 would be best.

Other board members whose terms are expiring, Bonnie Moore and John Miller, have agreed to continue on the board.

Val presented new the Slate of Officers as follows:

Val Perkins – President  
Joan Ingersoll – Vice President  
John Miller – Treasurer  
TBD – Secretary

Val explained that the slate can be voted on now and the board will discuss who will take on the role of Secretary at their September meeting. The slate of officers and renewal of Bonnie and John's terms was approved on a motion by Laurie Salame, seconded by Neil Toomey.

Val provided the following updates to the Association:

**Lake Host Program** – The program has been up and running since Memorial Day. Several volunteers took shifts on Memorial Day weekend and three weekends in June. We now have two paid Lake Hosts to cover the rest of the summer. There were 386 boat inspections performed as well as education about keeping the lake free of bacteria.

**Chance Pond** – The milfoil infestation was mapped earlier in the season. Val worked with the NH Department of Environmental Services to obtain a grant to pay for 40% of the cost of a diver who is removing milfoil from the pond. We have contracted for 35 hours of the diver's time and he has pulled 60 gallons of milfoil out of the pond thus far. Bonnie Moore has volunteered to help on shore, thanks to Bonnie for doing this.

It is not clear whether 35 hours will be enough to contain the problem. The cost of the diver is \$75 per hour and Val asked whether we want to pay for additional hours if needed. Mark Lorenze said that we should spend us much as we can afford because we need to get the situation under control. Bonnie Moore said it is very bad in sections and there are large pods, some of which appear to be quite old. She said it is not possible to eradicate the milfoil in one effort, but the goal is to remove enough so that annual maintenance can keep the problem in check.

Mark stated that chemical herbicides eliminated about 2/3 of the milfoil based on the mapping. He likened it to nature's cancer, noting that a combination of chemical treatments, surgical extraction and chronic maintenance are all required.

Val stated that members need to understand this is an ongoing expense and we will continue to work with DES to obtain available grant funds for this purpose. Some of our annual dues will go towards paying for the diver's time. The board will evaluate the situation after the diver has completed the 35 hours of removal and decide if we want to add additional hours to this effort.

Mark suggested that we could also do some targeted fundraising to pay for additional time as the mission of the WLA is to preserve and protect the lake.

**Dredging of Boat Launch** – Val has had a number of inquiries regarding when the dredging is going to happen. She has had conversations with Fish and Game and the Franklin Municipal Services Department and has also contacted the City Manager's office. A permit for this work has not been submitted by the City Manager, there is just too much going on to move it forward. People have been having problems with trailers and vehicles and this is an issue that needs attention. During the meeting Ted Starkweather

spoke with Brian Sullivan, Director of Municipal Services, who said that they do plan to do the dredging when the lake is drawn down in the fall.

Val is also going to follow up and request that the boulders be put back to block the entrance to the boat launch area near Griffin Beach as there are no Lake Hosts posted there for monitoring.

**VLAP Testing** – Testing was done in June using Eastern Analytical and in July through DES. We are not doing testing in August but have booked DES for September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Continuing to monitor the lake health is important and Val will share the DES reports when she receives them. If you see something you are worried about in the lake you can text a photo to Amanda McQuaid at DES 603-848-8094 and she will let you know if it looks like cyanobacteria.

**Beaver Dam** – In the past, beaver dams have blocked the flow of water coming into the lake from the inlet. The dam was recently broken up but if any boaters observe a blockage please let Val know. Bruce Brown reported that the dam has not been rebuilt by the beavers, he thinks they may have moved on. Holly Johnson reported that she has still seen beavers in the area.

**Photo Calendar** – Val reminded people to submit photos of lake life to Nancy Wolcott so they can be considered for the annual calendar. The submission deadline is Labor Day.

**Fireworks** – Val reminded people about the dangers of fireworks, the chemicals are damaging to the lake and the environment and are also traumatizing to wildlife, particularly loons. This year we have no loon nests and no loon babies on the lake.

**Online Dues Payments** – We have been working on making online dues payment an option. We expect this to be up and running soon and people will be able to use PayPal on the WLA website to pay their annual dues.

**Food Drive** – Although we are not having the Ice Cream Social this year, we do still want to support the Franklin Food Pantry and will put out collection bins on Webster Ave and Lake Shore Drive.

Val opened the meeting to comments from members. Mark Lorenze reminded people that Franklin has a city ordinance requiring that fireworks and noise cease after 9:30 pm.

Jean Daley raised the issue of geese at Griffin Beach and the resulting beach closures associated with them. Val has spoken with DES about this and two coyote decoys have been placed at the beach to deter the geese. Unfortunately, one of the coyotes was stolen and there is now a sign explaining the purpose of the coyotes. Although the beach closures are a nuisance, the water experts are not concerned that geese droppings are permanently contaminating the lake.

Herschel Dann Harris who is new to the community complimented everyone on the call as well as the board for their focus on being good stewards of the lake. He said he is happy to be part of such a nice community.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Ingersoll  
Secretary