

Webster Lake Association
Annual Meeting
August 5, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM by Val Perkins, President following coffee and pastry.

45 members were present, which constituted a quorum.

Val welcomed everyone. She stated that the annual yard sale held last month was a tremendous success. She thanked everyone who helped.

Val introduced the officers and board members. She noted that outgoing board member Kim Bonin was unable to attend due to a family obligation.

Val introduced this year's special guest, Melanie Carolan from the Loon Preservation Committee. Melanie brought the members up to date on the latest issues and successes regarding the common loon in New Hampshire. The population is slowly increasing. The greatest threat to the loon is lead fishing tackle. Lead tackle has been banned in the state since 2016 but is still used by some anglers. Breeding success is impacted by water levels and predators, including bald eagles. Where natural nest sites have failed, the Loon Preservation Committee provides artificial nest platforms to try to provide protection for the nesting loons. A new platform has been installed on Webster Lake this spring. It usually takes a few years before the breeding pair accepts a new platform. The Webster Lake loons were not successful breeding this year.

Melanie's presentation was well liked by the membership. After receiving a nice round of applause Val thanked her for joining us this year and for her excellent presentation.

Val opened the business meeting at 10:06 AM.

Val noted that the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting were distributed to the membership prior to this year's meeting. She asked if there were any questions. There were none. Motion was made by Neil Twomey, seconded by Brian Campbell to accept the minutes as distributed to the membership. It was unanimously approved.

John Miller, Treasurer, made his treasurer's report. Copies of the annual financial statement were distributed to the membership prior to this year's meeting. John asked if there were any questions. Deb Parker noted that the checking account had a high balance and earns little interest. John explained that our CD's will be expiring later this year and at that time the balances will be reinvested, including excess funds in the checking account. John stated that it is convenient to have all accounts at one bank. One member suggested a money market account might earn more interest. Buddy Potts noted that not all money market accounts are FDIC insured and all our money is currently FDIC insured. John will invest our funds in FDIC insured accounts earning the best interest available.

Motion made by Neil Twomey, seconded by Bruce Brown to accept the treasurer's report as presented. It was unanimously approved.

Val gave a brief summary of last year's bylaw proposal, which was not approved. The board considered the members concerns and decided to only recommend one change this year. The change is to allow modern electronic communication methods. This single change was mailed to all members prior to this year's meeting. Val asked if there were any questions. A member asked if the organization could require assessments to be paid by members. Buddy Potts pointed out that the WLA does not have any ability to legally force anyone to pay for any assessment and any assessment requested by the board would be voluntary. WLA is not a part of local government or politics and has no means of policing or enforcing rules. There were no further questions. Motion made by Neil Twomey, seconded by Peggy Cain to accept the revised bylaws as presented. It was unanimously approved.

Val Perkins gave an update on the boat launch dredging project. All engineering is complete and DES has issued the necessary permits. The city put the project out to bid and there is a successful low bidder. Subject to funds being available, the project is scheduled for this fall after the lake is drawn down for the winter. The low bid was \$39,500.

Val expressed frustration regarding the funding. Initially the city manager expected that the money would be available from leftover funds from the previous fiscal year. Val was recently told that \$9,500 of those funds were diverted to another issue. The boat launch is owned by the city and the city is responsible for all maintenance. The mayor had indicated, at a "Coffee with the Mayor" session, to some parties that the WLA was expected to finance some of the project.

This led to a long discussion by the members regarding if WLA should fund some of the project. Val said the city manager told her if WLA does not provide funding she would seek other funding to complete the project this fall. Concern was expressed who would pay if the project goes over the budget. Some members thought if the launch is improved bigger boats would come to the lake. Val was asked if there is any money in the proposed \$20 million bond issue for the boat launch. The answer is no.

One issue discussed at length is the sand from Legace Beach that is carried by the current to the boat launch, so it is constantly filling in. Because of this it will require frequent dredging. Concern was expressed if WLA funds part of this project we will be expected to fund future dredging as well, resulting in a significant drain on WLA resources. It was noted that maintaining the boat launch is not part of the mission of WLA. Other members wanted to fund part of the project because of the difficulty they are having getting their boats in and out.

Neil Twomey made a motion not to fund any of the boat dredging project. It was seconded by Bonnie Moore. Voting was by a show of hands. There were 24 votes for the motion and 3 opposed. Motion passed.

Interest was expressed in a fund raiser to help pay for the dredging. Val noted this would have to be an individual effort and not a WLA fundraiser.

The next item of business was a recent survey of Chance Pond for exotic plants. The good news is none were found. Val stated that the money spent by WLA for the recent remediation was well spent.

New Business:

Val stated that there are two openings on the Board of Directors. One three-year term and one term for one year. She asked for nominations.

Deb Parker was nominated for the three-year term by Brad Parker. The nomination was seconded by Ted Starkweather. It was unanimously approved.

Dennis Duquette was nominated by Neil Twomey for the one-year term. The nomination was seconded by Brian Campbell. It was unanimously approved.

There are two additional board seats held by current board members which are expiring. These are for 3-year terms. These seats are held by Bonnie Moore and John Miller. Both have offered to continue to serve. Val asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none.

Deb Parker made a motion to elect Bonnie Moore for a 3-year term on the WLA board. It was seconded by Brian Campbell. It was unanimously approved.

Deb Parker made a motion to elect John Miller for a 3-year term on the WLA board. It was seconded by Janet Flagg. It was unanimously approved.

Val stated that all officers must be elected annually. Val noted that all the current officers are willing to serve another year. Val asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Motion made by Bruce Brown to elect the following officers for the next year:

Val Perkins - President
Bonnie Moore - Vice President
John Miller - Treasurer
Buddy Potts - Secretary

The motion was seconded by Deb Parker and unanimously approved.

Val announced that the lake host position is open. Deb Steadman will be stepping down from this position. She described the responsibilities of the position, including working with Krystal Alpers at the Franklin Department of Parks and Recreation. Linda Stronge volunteered for the position and will work with Deb and Krystal moving forward.

Val described an email she received from DES. Eurasian Milfoil has been found at the Highland Lake outlet into Sucker Brook. Sucker Brook flows to Webster Lake. Val asked Bonnie Moore to check our end of Sucker Brook and she did not find any milfoil. Val asked that everyone be aware of this threat.

Val described the May cyanobacteria bloom on Webster Lake. It was a large bloom that affected most shoreline areas. Cyanobacteria is naturally occurring but high phosphorous loads lead to blooms which are toxic to humans and pets. DES was notified, did testing and issued an advisory. The advisory was lifted after three test cycles. Members were asked to report any blooms via the DES website and check for advisories on the DES website.

Val announced that next year is the 50th anniversary of the founding of WLA. Member Bill Cain has offered a logo celebrating the anniversary. He has also offered to provide sunset photos for a special anniversary calendar. He also said his sister will provide a stained-glass piece with the 50th anniversary logo. The board will discuss these ideas at the September 2 board meeting.

Val asked that a 50th anniversary committee be formed to plan other special events. Deb Parker offered to chair the committee and seek members for the committee. Bruce Brown offered to be a member.

Val announced the annual Ice Cream Social will be held at the Steadman Pavilion on Saturday September 2 at 2:00 PM.

The next community clean up will be held Columbus Day weekend. Kim Bonin will coordinate the cleanup.

Val announced that she will not seek reelection next year and will step down as president. She will have served 5 years as president and feels that is enough. She remains passionate about the lake. She is giving notice now to give the board time to seek her successor.

Val asked if there were any other items the members wished to discuss.

Bruce Brown noted that bathrooms at the public beaches are not always open. Val checked them last weekend and they were open. She also noted that Griffin Beach has been closed by DES because of a high fecal bacteria count. This is a recurring issue each summer.

There was a discussion of regulated lake versus unregulated lakes. This matter came up due to more boats being moored at both public beach areas. Webster Lake is unregulated. The large lakes in the state are regulated. Regulated lakes have strict enforcement and additional regulations which affect all users. The community must vote to regulate a lake. Mark Lorenze noted that the process to become a regulated lake takes 2 years. It is not easy to change to a regulated lake. Every dock not currently permitted, every mooring and every boat/ski lift not currently permitted would have to be removed from the water, apply for a permit, and pay fees. This issue has come up at other meetings and more research should be done to gather accurate information to bring before the membership regarding moorings and docks.

There being no further business it was voted to adjourn at 11:30 AM.

A True Record, attest:

Buddy Potts
Secretary