

**Winnisquam Watershed Network**  
**Board of Directors meeting**  
**January 9, 2023**

Attendees: Lisa Eggleston, Bob Day, Kath Keen, Chuck Mitchell, Tom Camp, Ed Stephenson, Dean Anson, Judy Hughes, Jim Chapman, Dick Tracy, Dawn Dupak, Marion Longo and Cindy O'Connell

Lisa opened meeting at 5:30 PM.

Dean discussed 25 acres of land in Laconia that is going up for sale that abuts some current conservation land. Dean approached city official about the land. Dean asked the board how they felt about making a monetary and emotional contribution towards purchasing the property. The land is next to Pickerel Pond, which is in the Winnisquam Watershed. Dean asked that the board send a letter in support of Laconia purchasing the property to put in conservation. The assessed value of the land is \$480,000. The board discussed being part of fund raising towards purchasing the land. Lisa mentioned that the Moose Plate program offers money towards purchasing land for conservation. Dean spoke with John Barry at Conservation Trust who will look into what they may be able to do. Cindy mentioned Fish & Game, Clean Water Act and other federal programs that assist with the purchase of preservation land. Dean hopes that the City of Laconia will consider loaning the Laconia Conservation Committee the funds to purchase the land. Dean hopes that the Conservation Commission lets the landowner know that they are interested in purchasing the land in hopes that they might consider a reduced cost of the land to use as tax write off. The current property tax for the land is \$7K. Chuck mentioned that he likes the idea of land purchase for preservation, however he expressed concern about WWN getting involved at this time.

Bob Day had to step away from meeting.

Meeting minutes: Jim Chapman made motion to accept the Nov 7<sup>th</sup> minutes, Ed seconded, all in favor.

Treasurer's report \$113,645.59 in account.

Lisa told the board that we received \$10,000 from our NH Charitable Foundation grant which is used to cover Cindy's salary. We will receive the final \$10,000 in December of this year. Most of Cindy's work in the next year or will be covered under 319 grant.

Lisa to work with Tom, on recognizing donations of \$100 or more. Lisa would like the board to share in sending out thank you notes. Tom will run report of all donors. Judy will update website.

Lisa advised the board that the IRS has waived the fine levied against WWN for our late submittal of the 2020 taxes.

Lisa is working with Tom & Ed on end of year fund raising report and reconciliation with LGL, in preparation for submitting 2022 tax report. Ed to work on wages paid.

Invasive species program, NHDES will fund 50% of milfoil divers, estimate for this year \$23,000, for 15 days. We hope to use just divers. Dean motioned to accept the NHDES grant funds, second by Jim, all in favor.

WWN has signed the 319 Grant from the Governor and Council. Cindy explained that we received 3 submittals for engineering, one did not meet the deadline and was eliminated. Comprehensive Environmental (CEI) and Horsley Witten (HWFDE) made submittals. CEI scored slightly higher on the scoring matrix so Cindy and Lisa are negotiating the scope and price with them. They hope that to have a signed contract in a few weeks. Lisa has circulated a draft of the contract to the board. Dean made a motion we select a company and sign contract, Jim seconded, all in favor. Timeline looks favorable that the Gale Ave and Deer Park Association projects will get tested prior to the Spring. Lisa suggested that once a company is selected and a contract is signed we do a press release. Dean suggested a meeting with residents in both areas to let them know what our plans are in hopes there are no unnecessary delays. Dean noted that WWN should present plans to Conservation Commission, which is also a good time to invite neighbors.

Cindy and Dean met with the State of NH restoration project manager for Merrimack River Watershed plant related material and whether it would benefit the Gale Ave project. Dean noted that the plants will be ready mid-April to mid-May, which may be too soon for the Gale Ave project. There was discussion on whether or not these are the type of plants and trees that would benefit Gale Ave.

#### Fund raising

Direct mailing, Marion looked into List Source, where she found addresses for homeowners around the lake. There are approximately 3,700 names and addresses for owners of property around the lake. Lisa, Tom and Marion will continue to work on this project.

Kath, Lisa and Dawn will get together to discuss future merchandise sales.

Lisa told us about an email she received from Kim Perry, referencing a grant that would allow for a life jacket stand at the Laconia Boat launch where our lake host program takes place. The life jacket program allows for the free use of life jackets. Dean spoke with Deb, one of the lake hosts, who mentioned that Kiwanis Club offered life jackets as well. There was discussion about liability. Lisa noted that the boat launch property is owned and managed by Fish & Game. Dawn will let Kim know that WWN is not interested in taking on the additional responsibilities at this time. Lisa asked the board to share information related to the history of Lake Winnisquam and area. Lisa mentioned a Winnisquam Bingo idea that could benefit WWN. Discussed WWN watershed brochure as to how you can benefit the watershed.

Tom will send the board information about the last five years of donors and how many years they have given.

Discussion took place on the possibility of engaging a consultant to assist with fund raising, and looking for the right person to become our executive director. Start on a part time basis with the idea of potentially growing into a full time position.

Next meeting Monday, March 6, 2023, 5:30 PM, via zoom, if there is a need to meet prior to we can notify the board.

The meeting adjourned 7pm