

Winnisquam Watershed Network

Board of Directors Meeting

May 3, 2021

Meeting Opened @ 5:30 PM PM (EST)

Attendees by Phone or Zoom: Lisa Eggleston, Jim Chapman, Robert Day, Ed Stephenson, Judy Hughes, Tom Camp, Dick Tracy, Dean Anson, Kathleen, Tony, and Chuck Mitchell.

April Meeting Minutes approved.

Thanks to Jim we appear to have reached our goal of raising enough funds to have a full time Lake Host. Lisa suggested noting that in the newsletter. Suggestion from Ed that we ask for additional funds in the news article. WWN received a number of donations with new members joining WWN. Lisa will put together a spreadsheet of recent donations for the board asking that we send personal notes to those who made a donation of \$100+. WWN is current on sending email acknowledgements for donations. Judy H. is looking for information to update website. Lisa will have Melissa write an update for Watershed Management progress for the website.

WWN received Lake Host grant maximum amount of \$2,500.00. Unanimous vote to accept Lake Host Grant. Dean will complete paperwork with Lisa's assistance. Governor's Council approved Moose Plate Grant, which allows WWN to start invoicing for what WWN has paid Melissa to date.

Dean noted that there are three people interested in working as Lake Host, 2 are teachers, who may not be able to start fulltime until mid-June. The third person has a full time job and only available on weekends. Lisa noted that Melissa may be able to cover some slots until school is out and teachers can start working week days. Ed also volunteered to help.

Lisa estimated that full time coverage will cost about 12K, we have \$2,500 from NH Lakes, Jim donated 2K, we raised additional funds, Ed stated that we had budgeted up to \$8,700 as of January. With the budgeted amount, money from NH Lakes and additional donations we have about \$14,200 to support Lake Host. Dean noted that at \$13.00 an hour with 8 hours a day coverage, will cost \$13,000.

Lisa and Dean discussed hours for Lake Host can be changed as we learn what peak hours are for the public landing. Lisa noted that weekdays will likely be quiet until school ends. Dean stated that he can volunteer a few hours during the week.

Tony pointed out that we will see more trailering this year, noting that most marinas have sold out all 2021 inventory with rentals booked for the summer. In addition there is no dock space available, which will likely results in more boats using the public landing to access the lake on a daily basis. Jim suggested that we seek volunteers to cover even more Lake Host hours.

Ed asked about whether or not we have a sign to put in place noting that the Lake Host is present and sponsored by WWN. Dean responded that we have a sign but it doesn't say sponsored by WWN. Lisa suggested that we contact NH Lakes to obtain additional signs. Judy will send Dean the link for Fishing Derbies, which will be dates that we will want to make sure the Lake Host is in place.

Melissa is putting together a survey to ask boaters why they use the lake.

Tom presented LGL privacy policy. Tom shared updates and pointed out suggested changes presented by Jeff. Noting that penalties can be as high as \$2,500 per disclosure. Tom pointed out that we appear to be in compliance and doesn't see this being an issue. The President of WWN is the party who has the authority to release confidential information if needed. Lisa suggested that it be the President and Treasurer so it is not left with one person. Chuck asked about members as they sign up giving permission for WWN to use their email for communication, which Lisa pointed out that members have the option of opting out of. Board was unanimous in approving policy.

Tom explained that there are four levels of access: Administrator (Lisa & Tom) suggesting that we always have two people, Gift Entry (Ed) allows him to enter information, Volunteers (Bill Esrich & Judy Hughes) to enter weed watcher info and Fundraisers. Discussion took place on giving Dick access when he covers for ED while Ed is in Florida during the winter months. Board Unanimous in supporting this.

Lisa updated the board on the May 18 watershed planning workshop that there are currently 29 people signed up, noting that not all board members are signed up. 5 of those signed up are from the consultant group. Hoping that more board members can participate to assure that we have enough board members to cover the breakout sessions during the workshop. Dean noted that members of the Winnepesaukee Board are planning on attending, which the board approves of noting that could lead to more collaboration. Lisa asked that the board reach out to local conservation committees seeking their attendance. Dean noted that there is interest in getting members of the Winnepesaukee, Winnisquam, Silver, Wicwas, Waukegan and the river watershed management teams together for an overall meeting. The board sees this as a positive step.

Lisa noted that Melissa is nearing the completion of the septic system inventory for the five towns around the lake. Melissa noted there are many homes in Meredith with no plans on file, which means they are likely very old in varying states of disarray. Sanbornton and Laconia are 50% sewer. Belmont is mostly on sewer (except Mohawk Island), and all of the properties on the lake in Tilton are sewer.

Culvert survey is underway by Trout Unlimited. Melissa and Dean tagged along with Trout Unlimited one day. Survey should be done in a few weeks. Dean gave high praise for the two guys doing the survey, stating they provided Dean and Melissa with detailed explanation of what they are doing. Trout Unlimited willing to work with the City of Laconia to identify funds needed to do survey's in Laconia. Lisa noted that the consultants are doing their watershed survey at the moment. They will identify problem areas. They will be working in Laconia in the near future, they are looking for contact with Laconia planning department. Lisa asked Dean if he could assist them, which Dean agreed to do. Lisa noted one of the problem areas is the Gale Ave area, where a great deal of trash seems to be entering the lake.

Tony brought up concern with makeshift homeless camp in Belmont near railroad tracks. Ed and Jim are familiar with the location of the camp, they are unsure of what the town is doing about it. Ed stated that he will bring it up at the next Belmont Conservation Committee meeting.

Lisa pointed out that it's time for a newsletter to go out. She plans to write about volunteers, weed watchers, VLSP, ice out sampling etc.

The board discussed the annual meeting, Dean will check with the Town of Belmont about the availability of the town beach to hold the meeting. The two possible dates in question are July 17 or 24 for holding the meeting.

Discussion on HB2 the sale of Laconia State School property, Lisa stated that she has not heard back from Senator French. Chuck noted that he has reached out to the Laconia Mayor's Office, he has not received a return call or email.

Deans working on obtaining lead fishing tackle collection receptacles, Lisa noted that we need to work with Loon Preservation committee. Lisa asked about working with Martels or Winnisquam Market on an exchange program. Dean noted that Martel's is going out of business. Chuck showed a sample of a monofilament collection tube.

Chuck talked about a landowner in Tilton who used equipment to excavate the lake bottom in front of his property then added sand to create a sandy beach. Lisa asked for information so she could pass along to consultant team. Chuck noted that they got cited by NHDES for the violation. Jim discussed property two houses down from him who encroached into the lake adding a concrete wall, can't believe they got permission to do that, Tony mentioned that they may not have received permission. Lisa explained that Jim could go on NHDES website to see if they obtained a permit to do that work. Jim will email information to Ed, who will bring it up to the Belmont Con Com. Conversation took place that there seems to be less communication between NHDES and local Con Coms, pointing out buildings that were torn down north of Winnisquam Market with a large structure being built without proper permits. Discussion that DEA staffing has been cut which makes it difficult to do all of the work that needs to be done.

Lisa asked that we all complete the survey located on the WWN website and note any specific sites that warrant attention. Lisa pointed out that there is a rental property in the north end of Meredith where the owner seems to replenish their beach sand every two years, which should only be done every seven years. Frustration that complaints made to NHDES need include name. Suggestion that complaint be filed by Con Com, Dean stated that he has tried regarding a property in his area that took down multiple trees, which he was told is out of the Con Com jurisdiction.

Lisa E. noted that Tom O'Brien is leaving NH Lakes, Andrea Lamoreaux will take over as President.

Strategic Planning Meeting set for Monday, 5/10/2021. Bob will only be available for 20 minutes. Tom and Bob put together an updated draft that will be presented at the meeting.

Dean took tributary equipment to DES to be checked and received sampling bottles. Dean asked if there is a schedule in place for sampling, which there is not at the moment. Suggestion made that sampling start as soon as available. Melissa is available to assist.

Dean noted that Laconia is looking for a new Conservation Technician, which pays twenty something an hour, which starts in June, the job description is posted on the Laconia website.

Lisa pointed out that Melissa attempted to take training and found that Lake Host training is listed as pending on website. Lisa stated that VLAP training is scheduled for May 24. VRAP training is not scheduled yet. Lisa is hoping that Michelle will train Dean and Melissa, who can then train others on water quality testing.

Next meeting scheduled for June 7 at 5: 30PM, discussion about holding meeting in person.