

West Harbor Pond Watershed Association Board of Directors Meeting July 18, 2023

Those attending: Merritt Blakeslee, Will Anderson, Valerie Breen, Michael Breen, Judith Kildow, Nate Cagle, Maggie Fairbrother, and guests, Alan and Susan Harris

Merritt Blakeslee, President of the Board of Directors opened the meeting at 7PM with a review of the agenda, and indicated that Nate Cagle would discuss first, plans for the annual meeting, Sunday August 11, 2023, at 1-4 PM.

1. Annual Meeting:

Nate proceeded to give an update with a list from last year of tasks and those assigned to the tasks. He asked for any changes, which were made both at the meeting and after in emails to fill in blanks, etc. He provided the agenda from last year which will remain the same except this year we won't have a speaker. It was agreed the BOD would send out several announcements to our members, associates and friends, put up signs in obvious places like the Post Offices, and assure there were announcements in the *BoothBay Register*. Members took responsibility for doing the various announcement placements.

2. Financial Report

Valerie Breen, acting Treasurer, gave a thorough quarterly financial report as of the date of our meeting. She also sent out copies of the complete report to all members of the BOD. As previously requested by Judy Kildow, Secretary, Valerie brought to the BOD a draft proposal that required a formal budget process, complete with rules for signatures for expenditures by all members over certain amounts. All Board members present agreed and voted to make her recommendations a part of the By-Laws of the WHPWA. The proposal follows:

"Within the bylaws of the West Harbor Pond Watershed Association, the Association will establish a yearly budget. The budget will be developed within the first quarter of every year, identifying reoccurring yearly expenditures, projected future expenditures, and the cash requirements needed to fund the budget. The Treasurer will provide a proposed budget to the Board of Directors to be reviewed, revised and approved. With the approval of the budget by the Board, the Treasurer is then authorized to pay all expenditures on the approved budget as they come due. The Treasurer has the authority to pay a budgeted expenditure within a 10% tolerance of the original amount. Any expenditure which is 10% over the budget will have to be presented to the board for review and approval.

If the expenditure is urgent/emergency and does not appear on the budget the officers of the association and two board members would be needed to approve the emergency expenditure.

3. Cooperation with Bigelow

Merritt asked Judith if she would be the official contact between Bigelow and the WHPWA. Since she is on the Board of Trustees and knows many of the scientists, he thought it better that one person would organize any conversations or requests. Judy has also organized a Zoom call with Bigelow in August to explore potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the future.

4. Reported Death of Rod McGary

Word came to us that last week one of our Pond neighbors, Rod McGarry, passed away in his home in Rhode Island after several years of battling cancer. Rod had been a resident on Wawenock Trail since the 90's, a long-time supporter of the WHPWA, and served for several years as member of the WHPWA's Board of Directors. Here is a link to his obituary: <https://www.bellowsfuneralchapel.com/obituary/Roderick-McGarryIII>.

5. Pond Grass

The WHPWA web page has a description of the most recent assistance Bigelow scientists provided, identifying and explaining the pond grass situation. We agreed to urge all of our abutters of the pond to read the statement that we have now posted on our website to understand the importance of not disturbing the pond grass, caused by exceptionally heavy rains this spring and summer, and how it is helping the pond retain a healthy balance.

6. Fishing Derby

Those overseeing the fishing derby during July and August this year were disappointed in the poor participation during July and hoped we would have more participants in August. We guessed part of the reason was the number of rainy days that prevented people from going out on the pond. Several new announcements were sent out to encourage people to participate as a result.

7. Central Maine Power trimming operations on Lakeside Drive

Merritt explained his interactions with CMP regarding the mess they left on Lakeside Drive on many of our properties by heavily trimming trees and leaving behind piles of branches and other debris. He indicated the CMP PR department was handling the situation and was very cooperative in coming back to take care of what was left of their debris that landowners had not already cleaned up. They promised to instruct their subcontractor who does that work to be more sensitive to trashing the areas where they worked. Hopefully this has been resolved satisfactorily. An account of the WHPWA's interactions with CMP is now posted on our website.

8. Finally, Merritt asked if any other Lakeside landowners were having potable water problems with their wells. Evidently the Blakeslees and the Breens have a unique problem with their wells that they are trying to deal with. They appeared to be the only ones, at least of those attending the meeting. If anyone else is having problems, please contact Merritt.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

Respectfully Submitted
Judith Kildow, Secretary