

April 27, 2023 WHPWA Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Merritt Blakeslee, Will Anderson, Michael Breen, Valerie Breen, Jill Bryant, Maggie Fairbrother, Judy Kildow, Dave McFarland, Glenna Clark, Susan Harris
Alan Harris

Merritt Blakeslee, the chairman, opened the quarterly meeting of the WHPWA Board of Directors at 7PM, April 27, 2023.

I. Finances:

Our new Acting Treasurer, Valerie Breen, gave her Treasurer's report (attached) which showed a current balance of \$11,210.65. She also presented a 3.5-year history of expenses, as requested by the BoD earlier, for purposes of creating an official budget for the WHPWA. Judy Kildow had brought up the topic several meetings ago, explaining that it was important to have a budget especially at this time of declining membership and consequent annual decline in funds. This was also in response to Will Anderson's asking if we should be fund raising either with a plant sale or some other activity.

The discussion that followed resulted in the following:

- a. At the moment it did not seem necessary to fund raise in view of the current annual budget commitments. However, depending on membership levels, we might have to seriously consider fund raising in a few years, especially if there was a need for expensive equipment purchases or repairs or if items in the annual budget were to increase significantly.
- b. Valerie and Judy promised to draw up a budget derived from the collected data Valerie also agreed to produce a legal document describing protocols that she had suggested for paying expenses/invoices.
- c. Once the annual budget is voted on by the BoD, all invoices will require two signatures to be paid, and invoices over \$200.00 must be brought to the BoD for a vote before they are paid.

II. Membership Report

Judy Kildow reported that membership remained at 33 paid members for the year 2022-23. The Board discussed strategies for improving membership and the following were decided:

- a. Be more proactive about announcing the Annual Meeting date and encouraging people to attend by sending both snail and email announcements, placing announcements in the local paper, and sending reminders with the meeting agenda when that was decided.
- b. Holding community activities during the year to engage our community more effectively.

III. Water Quality

Merritt explained that the dissolved oxygen readings taken with the newly repaired YSI meter last October and November appeared anomalous. In April, he compared the

WHPWA meter readings with those taken from a Bigelow Labs meter. The readings were inconsistent with one another. He then consulted with YSI and discovered that when YSI returned the meter last October after repairs, the meter had a protective cover that was difficult to see, and that had been in place since the return. Once the cover was discovered and removed, the WHPWA meter gave DO readings that were consistent with those of the Bigelow equipment.

The question came up whether we wanted to continue participating in the Lake Stewards water testing (temperature, dissolved oxygen) program this year, and it was agreed we would continue because several of our members had already been trained by them and appreciated their training. And it was pointed out that their data was valuable in showing trends in possible problems we might encounter that show up in other lakes before we would experience them, giving us benefits of advance notice.

Merritt suggested we hold a volunteer event to clean up the roadsides in our watershed so that trash did not end up in the pond. The Board agreed we would ask those who live along Lakeside Drive and Lakeview Ave. to clean up their roadsides.

Regarding the siphon, Merritt stated that the siphon was functioning properly, and that there was no need to hire a diver to check for damage from storms last fall and winter.

IV. Activities:

The Board agreed to hold the Fishing Derby. Michael Bujnowski has again agreed to run the Fishing Derby.

We also agreed the date for the **ANNUAL MEETING would be Sunday August 13, 2023.**

V. In Progress

A. Bathymetric mapping of the pond is an ongoing discussion. The Board asked Judy Kildow to set up a meeting between the relevant scientists at the Bigelow Lab and our members who wanted to be part of a partnership with Bigelow regarding not only the potential mapping but other possible joint activities.

B. Watershed Plan. Maggie is undertaking a Watershed Plan, based on the Watershed Survey done in 2018. She is gathering all the data she can find but needs help finding many data from which that plan was produced. She asked for help in doing this. Once she has the information for the plan, she will present it to the BoD and with approval, submit it for a grant.

C. Merritt indicated he had not yet had discussions with DOT about raising the dam to prevent saltwater intrusion.

VI. Information Items

- Several of those present described wildlife that had encountered recently ranging from eagles and other birds to fox kits and other mammals.
- Well problems on Lakeside Drive (Lakeview Drive has year-round town water, thus no wells) – at least the Breens and the Blakeslees and the Gaeckleins have significant well problems -- saltwater intrusion, high levels of TDS, iron. Merritt also indicated that he and his neighbors were going to try for a special grant to fund

year-round town water along Lakeside Drive, because their water was so terrible and, in some cases, undrinkable this winter.

- Merritt gave an update on our insurance policies. He is inquiring about whether we have adequate coverage at the best rates. With expensive metering equipment now, he wanted to ensure we are covered if anything is damaged or lost. He explained that after next year we may have an issue with general and specific liability coverage insurance. We also discussed the need for Board liability coverage and decided to continue with that.
- The siphon appears to be operating splendidly.

The meeting was closed at 9:30.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Kildow, Secretary