

**2017 Annual (Charter) Meeting
Winnisquam Watershed Network
July 29, 2017
Leslie Roberts Park
Belmont, NH**

The meeting began at 9:10 am with 50 members in attendance. Tom O'Brien, Executive Director of the New Hampshire Lakes Association, welcomed attendees and explained that the purpose of the meeting was to elect a Board of Directors, approve bylaws and discuss the tasks to be addressed by the Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN). Tom gave a brief background on how the group came about and introduced Lisa Eggleston, who had spearheaded the effort, to chair the rest of the meeting.

Lisa Eggleston thanked Tom O'Brien and other members of NH Lakes for the assistance they provided to the steering committee in creating the WWN and the approximately 30 individuals who had participated in the steering committee meetings over the past year. Lisa described the need for a single lake association to protect, advocate for and celebrate all the wonderful aspects of Lake Winnisquam. Although many groups have an interest in the lake, there has historically been very little communication or coordination among those groups. The WWN aims to foster communication and collaboration on lake-related issues, and will be the only organization focusing exclusively on Lake Winnisquam and its watershed. She then summarized the work of the committee leading up to this charter meeting and read the mission statement that the group had developed, "The Winnisquam Watershed Network (WWN) is a collaborative effort of individuals and organizations acting to preserve and protect Lake Winnisquam for future generations."

The WWN's initial efforts will include the development and implementation of a comprehensive water quality monitoring program for Lake Winnisquam, the prevention and control of milfoil and other invasive aquatic species, and working with local municipalities to encourage and support planning on a watershed-wide basis.

Lisa explained that several groups have been conducting volunteer water quality monitoring on the lake for a number of years through the UNH Lay Lakes Monitoring Program (LLMP) and the NH DES Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP), but there has previously not been any coordination or data sharing between the two programs or the volunteers conducting them. At a meeting facilitated by John Edgar, the Community Development Director in Meredith, representatives of the WWN steering committee met last fall with the coordinators of the two monitoring programs and discussed the need for a more coordinated and comprehensive approach to monitoring. In response to that request the LLMP and VLAP coordinators drafted a tiered monitoring plan for

Lake Winnisquam, the first tier of which volunteers started implementing this summer. The WWN aims to expand the monitoring program in the future as more resources and volunteers become available. Lisa stressed the importance of monitoring in being able to track changes to the water quality and identify sources of pollution.

With regard to milfoil control, Lisa read a letter to the group from Amy Smagula, the Exotic Species Program Coordinator at NH DES, describing previous milfoil management on the lake and indicating her willingness to work with the WWN on a coordinated and lake-wide approach to milfoil management. According to the letter, this new collaborative should help to more strategically implement prevention, early detection and strategic and integrated long-term management activities in Lake Winnisquam. To this end, NH DES will survey the lake as a whole during August and September 2017 and will use the findings of this survey to update the management plan for the lake. The WWN will pursue grant funding and solicit donations to fund the treatment of milfoil, hopefully beginning with the 2018 growing season.

The WWN is a member-supported organization, and dues will go toward supporting the goals of the Network. The WWN has also received several additional donations, both from individuals and organizations. Two neighborhood associations on the lake, Grey Rocks and the Lake Winnisquam Drive Association (Black Brook Rd residents in Meredith) have pledged a total of \$700 to support the Network's efforts and it is hoped that others will follow suit. The WWN will also be applying for grants and, as a single entity for the whole lake, expect to be in a good position to obtain grant funding.

Lisa then called on Cliff King who reported that the WWN will be providing logistical and safety support for a former US Marine amputee who is planning to swim the length of Lake Winnisquam on August 17th. Mike Welsch is an incredibly motivated individual who decided years ago, after losing one of his legs due to a motorcycle accident, that he would not let it slow him down nor dictate who he is. He has taken on several other NH lake swims already and is an accomplished marathoner and triathlete. The swim will start at about 7:30 at the Loon Preserve. Anyone who would like to swim, boat or kayak along can contact Cliff via the WWN email, winnisquamwatershednetwork@gmail.com.

The business portion of the meeting was next. Copies of the proposed WWN bylaws were distributed to the members for their review.

Lisa identified seven nominees interested in serving on the WWN Board of Directors, and three additional people nominated themselves at the meeting. The bylaws call for up to 15 members. The ten nominees described their backgrounds and interests in the lake, and Lisa pointed out that the slate of nominees included residents of all five towns on the lake. A motion was made and seconded to elect the following slate of Directors and Officers for a term of

one year:

President: Lisa Eggleston (Meredith)
Vice-President: Cliff King (Sanbornton)
Treasurer: Ed Stephenson (Belmont)
Secretary: Dean Anson II (Laconia)
Director: Tom Mead (Tilton)
Director: Judy Hughes (Meredith)
Director: Jim Chapman (Belmont)
Director: Terry Rasp (Sanbornton)
Director: Frank Maaz (Meredith)
Director: Tony Carita (Meredith)

The motion passed overwhelmingly.

After some questions and discussion regarding the proposed bylaws a motion was made and seconded to approve the bylaws as drafted (see attached). The motion passed unanimously.

At next year's Annual Meeting, amendments can be made to the bylaws particularly regarding staggered term limits of the Officers.

With respect to the budget, Lisa explained that most of the WWN's expenditures are going to be in the summer season, with bills coming in through the fall, and planned expenditures will need to be on a seasonal basis. The WWN's fiscal year will therefore be commensurate with the calendar year, January through December. Since the annual meetings will be held in the summer the budget approved at this charter meeting will need to cover an 18-month period, through December 2018. Starting with next year's annual meeting the budget motions will cover a one-year period. She also explained that no one knows yet how much money the WWN will be able to generate, or what grant funds it will be able to obtain, but whatever funds are generated should be put to use in pursuing the WWN's mission.

The following motion was made and seconded:

"For the time period from now until the end of the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018 move to authorize the Board of Directors to expend such funds as are available for the purposes of conducting water quality monitoring and milfoil control, for administrative costs of the organization and for other such purposes as are consistent with the mission of the WWN."

After a brief discussion the motion passed unanimously.

At the conclusion of the business meeting Lisa thanked everyone for attending and asked that they help to spread the word about the Winnisquam Watershed Network and encourage friends and neighbors to support it. Various homeowner associations around the lake have been spreading the news about WWN as a

way of increasing membership. Volunteers are also needed to help with water quality monitoring, weed watching/milfoil control, general administration including website management, social media development, grant writing, newsletter writing and fundraising. Anyone interested in helping should send an email to winnisquamwatershednetwork@gmail.com.

After some general discussion the meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

Respectively submitted:

Dean Anson II, Secretary