

WOLFEBORO WATERS COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 18, at 1:00 pm

Present: Linda Murray, Brad Harriman, Rich Masse, Kathy Barnard, Abby Adams, Libby Peard, Warren Muir, Beth Marcoux,

Absent: Mary DeVries, Art Slocum, Bree Rossiter, Julie Brown

- 1) Linda called the meeting to order at 1:05pm
- 2) Abby moved to expand the committee and invite Dana Huff to join. Libby seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.
- 3) The February 21, 2024 minutes were reviewed. Libby raised 2 concerns and approval was held for further clarification.
- 4) **Member terms:**
 - a. Mary DeVries -2024
 - b. Richard Masse-2025
 - c. Warren Muir-2025
 - d. Abigail Adams-2025
 - e. Kathy Barnard-2025
 - f. Art Scocum-2025- absent
 - g. Julie Brown-2025-absent
 - h. Libby Peard-2025
 - i. Beth Marcoux-2026
- 5) **Bridge Falls Landing Project- from Willow Street-** Linda indicated this item is on the planning board agenda for Tuesday night. At this point, the project is “up in the air”. Kathy indicated they will likely either deny the request or grant an extension.
- 6) **Wolfboro Bay Watershed Management Plan-** Linda reported that the letter was sent to LWA indicating WW priorities for projects. Bree indicated nothing new on this.
- 7) **Mitigation and Prevention-** Rich provided an updated spreadsheet that incorporated suggestions and discussion from the last meeting. He stated the goal of the tool is to be used as a means to determine which projects are most appropriate for funding and as a means of tracking projects. As most projects will have a sponsor, he recommends interest groups submit their most important projects for comparison on this spreadsheet. Rich believes there may be 24-36 projects included. Warren asked if the spreadsheet was primarily for 319 grant projects and Rich responded “no”. The tool could be used for any program where we might have input. The tool provides a way to establish a hierarchy of projects. Once we have identified which are the most important projects, there will be many second and third tier projects. We can put that list together in a less complex way and give it to Steve for further consideration. Warren asked how the weighting of Phosphorus versus Nitrogen was established. Rich responded it was given 10:1 ratio based on the opinion of experts Jeff Marcoux at DES and Don Kretchmer to get this ratio.

Don provided Rich the following example: If 1 unit of P produces one unit of pollution, then 1 unit of P and 1 of N together produce 1.1 units of pollution, suggesting 10:1 ratio. Warren stated that the concentration of N in water is 10X that of P. N is much more labile than P and is not controlling the growth of stuff. Rich stated that Nitrogen and Phosphorous were included on the spreadsheet because it is identified as a factor in all projects submitted. Rich indicated that Total P accounts for 29% in spreadsheet; total N is 3% so is one of the lesser factors. Don K indicated that BMPs for N are very different than those for P. Rich doesn't want to ignore it because experts included it. Warren indicated that water quality drivers are P and organic materials that are flowing into the lakes and interacting with the top layers of the sediment. Rich suggested that we prepare the spreadsheet so it's ready to be used and then ask one or 2 reps from each interest group (Wentworth, LWA, Rust Pond) to complete the spreadsheet for their projects. Rich will compile the results and bring it back to the Committee. The priority multiplier keeps us from being captive by spreadsheet – allows for subjective input. A notes column was added for things not captured in the numbers. Linda suggested divisions also include Wolfeboro Bay and Winter Harbor. Rich asked if we want Shaw's pond included; Linda indicated it does eventually flow into Winnepesaukee. Rich recommended that we review the spreadsheet every 6 months to 1 year—as a process for continuous review of projects.

Warren indicated we should focus on what we can recommend to private land owners regarding what they can do to improve/maintain water quality. We need to aggregate information from several sources to be provided to private home/land owners. Abby indicated this information is put in newsletter and agrees we need to keep doing it. LWA and other lake associations have a number of pamphlets/flyers on this topic. Rich indicated it was important for shoreline home owners and Linda and Warren pointed out the land owners above the shorelines need this information as well. Lake associations have the materials and budgets for this. Linda suggested bringing lake associations with their flyers and pamphlets to a selectmen's meeting or planning board meeting to capture those audiences as well. Beth explained the "Keep Winni Blue" program assessment that is done by NH Lakes and LWA. Warren and Abby stated that people need to be made aware of P in detergents, car washing products and others. Linda asked where can we go to find simple solutions that can be passed on to land and home owners. Warren suggested looking to VT or other states who are also working on improving and maintaining water quality. Linda asked Beth to contact Dana Huff to see if he has additional suggestions and is interested in joining committee.

Education about what watershed is needs to be repeated multiple times. April 14 WW will have a table at the Congregational Church. We will also have a table in June at the Lakes Conference. Warren asked if state banned P in fertilizer – Abby said it was taken out of lawn fertilizer but is available for gardens. There was a discussion of agricultural rules on use of P in the state. This needs to be looked into for clarification. It was suggested there be an educational session for landscapers and arborists. Linda indicated that Steve Randall has made changes as to how we salt our roads and this could be used as example to encourage home owners to make changes. Abby indicated all these topics have been covered in newsletters in the past two years and wondered if we should have them printed. Warren recommended sharing this information with other institutions in town; other boards, etc to get the word out. Abby indicated the wake surfing bill got through committee and will go to the floor in near future. Brad talked about the use of sand on the roads going into catch basins. Warren indicated the sand probably contains less P than the sediment that comes from properties and drinking water and using sand

probably adds less P to water runoff. Abby indicated she thought there was P in sand and that was the reason they don't want sand added to beaches unless it is washed sand.

- 8) **Library landscaping project**- -Update- 2025 CIP project – They have addressed the filtration system so it now works. Will come to CIP first and then will come to WW for review.
- 9) **319 grants**: No updates. Rust pond is working on getting their 319 grant up and running before the deadline. Libby made contact with the engineer.
- 10) **Route 28 project**: *Steve Randall, Barry Muccio and Tavis Austin will be at the April 3, 2024, Board of Selectmen meeting to discuss Rt 28. There is an issue with the electric lines and hopefully a timetable and scope will be discussed at the 4/3/2024 BOS meeting.* Linda indicated there is a major issue on Rt. 28. In order for project to take place all telephone poles have to be relocated temporarily and then moved back. That cost is huge – in the millions. The cost may kill this project. It has to come to BOS. Linda hoped they could get retention basins to help in this area. Poles have to be moved because the road and drains have to be enlarged. Linda still hasn't heard what the survey results were. If this project doesn't happen, many of the drainage issues will not be addressed.
- 11) **Public Safety Building**- Linda indicated phase 1 will be done end of April, early May. In the next phase they will pull apart the bays of the fire department. Middle section comes down. Front is phase three and that takes it into 2025. Drainage goes through a Filtera drain and then to Crescent Lake. Warren indicated this will take care of P in the sediment but not the dissolved P. Jellyfish drain was preferred drainage plan, but too expensive. Linda feels we need to be involved earlier in the project. Warren thinks there needs to be a simple way to absorb the dissolved P. He's thinking there must be some catch basin design with aluminum in it that could be replaced yearly that would help remove the dissolved P.
- 12) **Road Salt used on Road**: Continue looking at salt use on roads and how it relates to water quality and then use best management practices as they evolve. *Maybe high light Town PWD practices?*
- 13) **Dockside Parking Lot Drainage**- This project was listed as a priority in the letter to LWA. We will get help with conceptual design, but the area has a high water table and the ground is not solid. Brad spoke with Steve Randal last week and talked about money for a drainage system design. They spoke about 3 sections: street that dumps under bridge; seawall portion from Dockside and Dockside parking lot. They talked about incorporating them but having separate designs. Steve said there is some funding that can be used to create the design. Brad will find out more about this and report back.
- 14) **A Plan for Storm Drain Stenciling**: In 2023 used blue paint. White was identified as the color of choice. Red would not show up for those who are color blind.
- 15) **2024 Warrant Articles**
 - a. **2024 OPERATING BUDGET FAILED BY 27 VOTES OR 50.8%** *There will be a budget freeze. The BOS, with the Town Manager's recommendation, will need to*

make cuts to cover the \$1 million difference between the proposed 2024 operating budget and the 2024 default budget. Town Manager has asked Staff to cut 5% from their budget.

- b. **Clarification:** BOS cannot use the \$2,000,000 donated to the Town in 2023 for the Pop Whalen renovation. The Board has no appropriation in the 2024 default budget that would allow the Selectmen to use that \$2,000,000. RSA 32:8 states that no Town can spend any money for any purpose unless that amount was appropriated for that purpose by an annual or special Town Meeting.
- c. **Port Wedeln- \$1.2 million FAILED_ONLY 55% NEED 60%** which is an addition of \$769,710 over the 2022 Warrant Article to pay for the increased cost of engineering, equipment, construction, and inspections of the Port Wedeln Drainage upgrades. This drainage system project was redesigned to cover 10-year storms not just one-year storms. This will be a bonded warrant article. Still, work needs to be done to acquire easements and an agreement with the Port Wedeln Association. **Added language:** Also, no construction can start until 1. The Port Wedeln Association has signed an agreement to pay the Town \$100,000 for the stormwater drainage system 2. The Town has in hand all signed easements by December 31, 2025.

Linda indicated there was confusion about the \$100,000 to be donated by the Port Wedeln Association being finalized until after the warrant article and this contributed to the failure. Brad suggested the discussion on social media contributed also. Warren asked if we could create a phase 1 on this with the \$400,000K and then later continue the project. Abby thinks there is another year before it expires. Abby indicated there were questions by citizens about whether or not town got more than one estimate. Brad indicated that firms are picked based on qualifications and don't get to pricing until after you have picked your firm. Brad indicated there are firms they are comfortable with.

- d. **Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve- addition to of \$50,000. PASSED BY 55%**
 - i. 11/9/2023 balance \$176,550 minus \$40,000 remaining \$136,550
 - ii. Project expenditures \$23,000 for Rust Pond and \$3,000 for Birchmont.
 - iii. The BOS approved spending \$40,000 from the Water Resources Capital Reserve Account for engineering from **Whitegate** Road to and including Partridge Road. The Town will cover the other \$40,000 until it is paid back.
- e. **Jockey Cove Stormwater Design & Engineering- PASSED 61.8%** The committee supported this WA after receiving a letter from the Conservation Commission dated 11/29/2023. **This Article is for \$20,000.**

Rich asked if there is a process for a special town meeting to reconsider budget. Brad indicated there is. Linda stated there was a large voter turnout, but not the largest. Lots of people came out for school board.

Linda asked Warren about what is going on with White Gate. LWA had a grant to design a plan for drainage in White Gate. No update has been provided. Linda will follow-up.

16) Committee Reposts

- a. **Assessing subcommittee:** Next meeting is March 26. The subcommittee is focusing on developing protocols and implementing a program of stream

sampling to better understand how much P is coming into Lakes. We will hopefully have results of sediment samples.

- b. **Communication subcommittee:** 370 people are getting newsletter
- c. **Mitigation and Prevention:** Spreadsheet.

2023 budget approved \$21,500 spent in 2023 \$14,219.57. About 7,000 left which we can't keep. Warren indicated this may be due to UNH bill being smaller than expected. Warren asked if we need an appropriation to use \$1,200 donation that was made. Linda said no.

Proposed 2024 Budget

Assessing		20,000.00
Testing	10,000.00	
Bigelow Labs	5,000.00	
Intern	5,000.00	
Communication		2,000.00
Educational materials	1,000.00	
Water Summit	1,000.00	
Mitigation and Prevention		<u>2,500.00</u>
Total 2024 budget	<u>Cut by BOS to \$21,500</u>	\$24,500.00
New Total		\$21,500.00 5% \$1,075.00

Budget was cut to \$21,500. We were asked to reduce budget by 5%.

17) **Next meeting:** April 15, 2024 at 1pm in the Annex conference room

18) Beth moved and Abby seconded a motion to adjourn.

19) The meeting was adjourned at 2:45pm.

Respectfully submitted
Beth Marcoux