

WOLFEBORO WATERS COMMITTEE [WWC]

July 11, 2023, at 1:00 pm
Great Hall, 84 South Main Street

***DRAFT1* MINUTES**

1) Call to order:

Members Present: Linda Murray (Chair), Abigail Adams, Julie Brown (Wentworth Watershed Association), Mary DeVries (Chamber of Commerce), Brad Harriman (Board of Selectmen Representative), Richard Masse, Warren Muir, Libby Peard, Art Slocum

Associates Present: Paul O'Brien, Bree Rossiter (Lake Winnepesaukee Association), Caleb (UNH Research Intern), Abby (Wentworth Watershed Association)

Absent Member: Kathy Barnard

2) Approval of Minutes:

Chair Linda Murray made a motion to Approve the 5/18/2023 Minutes. Seconded by Rich Masse. Approved with One Abstention (8-1-0).

Libby Peard made a motion to Approve of 6/13/2023 Minutes with minor corrections. Seconded by Chair Linda Murray. Approved unanimously (9-0-0).

3) New Business:

a. Mitigation and Prevention:

i. Wolfeboro Bay Watershed Management Plan Update:

- **B Rossiter:** The shoreline survey of Wolfeboro Bay could be conducted with volunteers in kayaks. We would need four boats for the Back Bay. Each boat uses a visual score card from 1 to 5. The criteria include: amount of forest cover, amount of impervious surface coverage, plus other criteria.

ii. Shorefront Residential District Discussion, paraphrased below:

- **R Masse:** Feedback from Planning Board re: WWC's recommendations to update these zoning regulations: 1) Dead, Diseased, Structurally Unsafe Trees don't count to begin with, let's remove that paragraph. 2) Re: 30% Impervious Coverage, what if a site already has 30% Impervious Coverage?
- **A Slocum:** NH statute allows Owner to rebuild on an existing building footprint by right.

Julie Brown made a motion to recommend removal of paragraph on Dead, Diseased, Structurally Unsafe Trees in the Wolfeboro Water Committee's Letter to the Planning Board. Seconded by Bree Rossiter. Approved unanimously.

iii. Hunters Site Discussion, paraphrased below:

- **R Masse:** A second WWC letter about the Hunters Site was sent yesterday, asking Applicant to address stormwater runoff from new building roof [new building footprint is about 15,591 SF]. Current proposal is to move stormwater from new roof under the parking lot, then have it land in detention basins and Vortechs system before being discharged into Town sewer system. However, it is preferable for the roof runoff to be detained at the roof. Due to the most recent rainstorms, we are now looking at the near future, in terms of 100-year storm events. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration [NOAA] estimates that a 100-year storm event can occur every eight years. The Hunters Site risks being overwhelmed, as its current design is for 50-year storm event. Building bigger [adding more detention equipment] may not be practical at this time. Slowing the stormwater runoff at the roof is preferable, R. Masse would like to present a WWC recommendation to the Planning Board.
- **A Slocum:** What Hunters proposes to do for stormwater runoff now may be okay for now, but is there a way for the Town to review this situation again, in the future?
- **P O'Brien:** Can we calculate how many gallons of water would run off the roof? Is the Budget Committee looking for input from WWC?
- **Chair L Murray:** Yes, WWC is the voice for keeping surface waters as clean as possible. Financially, there are two possible sources for the Town to fund improvements to stormwater drainage infrastructure.
- **B Harriman:** The Board of Selectmen [BOS] will be looking at upgrades to the Town sewer system. The Town needs to take a bigger view and can step up to the plate on this issue.
- **R Masse:** It is a balancing act between the Property Owner and the Town, to reduce stormwater runoff on-site before the Town storm drainage system might be overwhelmed by it. The role of WWC is to recommend best practices to the Property Owner.
- **L Peard:** WWC has an important role in the incremental improvements to address the environmental issues which are facing the community.
- **Chair L Murray:** I see this more as a Communication issue.
- **J Brown:** $15,000 \text{ SF} \times .62 = 9,300$ gallons runoff, too much water for rooftop rain garden.
- **B Rossiter:** In June 2022, UNH [University of New Hampshire] published a Climate Assessment Report with a lot of information about climate trends.
- **P O'Brien:** We need to assess the situation on the hospital site and bank headquarters site.
- **M DeVries:** I am not comfortable with telling an owner what to prioritize for their business.
- **R Masse:** The more water flow you can slow on-site, the more you protect what is down-stream.
- **A Adams:** Hunters should be praised. We can't avoid enforcing regulations.
- **Chair L Murray:** When the Wolfeboro Waters Committee speaks, we hope the Owner or Developer listens. Let's continue to look at all options to slow water flow on-site.

- **P O'Brien:** Our conversations seem to be about two topics: nutrients and water flow.
- **R Masse:** For stormwater control measures, you can treat 100% or 60% of the runoff. Typically, you capture and treat nutrients, but you're not required to address 100% of the runoff. In my opinion, the excess runoff will contain nutrients. Is removing 30% of the total flow off the new building roof worth considering?
- **P O'Brien:** How many Technical Review Committee [TRC] meetings did Hunters have?
- **B Harriman:** Two or three.
- **Chair L Murray:** WWC just sent out the List of Questions for what an Applicant needs to consider. Being observant, especially this summer when cyanobacteria has been sighted already, is what WWC can do now.
- **M DeVries:** I thought WWC sent a previous letter for Hunters, that we voted on.
- **R Masse:** The previous letter wasn't written by Wolfeboro Waters Committee, I wrote it.
- **M DeVries:** I may have missed a previous WWC meeting.
- **R Masse:** Could WWC please advise me now? I'd like to reference recent storm events at the Planning Board meeting tonight.
- **A Adams:** I think it's okay for Rich Masse to present the second letter re: the Hunters Site at the Planning Board meeting tonight.
- **J Brown:** What is the roof material for the new Hunters building?
- **R Masse:** I'll ask about the roof material tonight, at Planning Board meeting.
- **B Harriman:** I think the Applicant has responded well to the Town's concerns. Randy Tetreault of Norway Plains Associates asked repeatedly for the Town's concerns. The process has been open and transparent.

Art Slocum made a motion to support the Wolfeboro Waters Committee letter to the Planning Board about the Hunters Site. Seconded by Abigail Adams. Seven in Favor, one Absention, one Opposed. The motion passed (7-1-1).

Albee Beach: Phase I completed.

b. Assessing subcommittee:

i. Status Report and UNH Research Intern Update by Caleb:

- **W Muir:** We have a Flow Meter, we've been testing it in two streams. Could WWC provide us with a list of streams to test? We will eventually draft a report. Facebook has not made contact.
- **B Rossiter:** I'll reach out to Laura.
- **W Muir:** Core samples are being collected. Emily is the Lead Volunteer (her house was flooded last week). We use plastic syringes to gather samples. Two dozen samples will be provided and will be sent to Bigelow Lab.
- **W Muir:** LLMP [Lakes Lay Monitoring Program] samples are being collected. Caleb has been doing data input and analysis on stream flows into an Excel spread sheet. He's also involved with PCR work.

- **Caleb:** PCR samples have been collected. We have approximately 70 samples. I've been reviewing Bigelow's standards and I think that some may be outdated.
 - **J Brown** asked about helicobacter and a second bacteria.
 - **B Rossiter** asked what is the expired standard for?
 - **W Muir** said he and Caleb chose six standards to target (and named six different bacteria). He said the Bigelow standards need to be verified.
 - **P O'Brien** referred to: 1) Albee Beach, 2) Carry Beach, 3) Crescent Lake. He said the Town is fixing a parking lot with a drainage issue.
 - **J Brown** pointed out that dissolved phosphorous is food for cyanobacteria.
 - **W Muir** said it's possible to look at phosphate and nitrogen loading.
 - **Chair L Murray** also referred to Carry Beach and Jockey Cove.
 - **P O'Brien** said the Town mobilized quickly about locating the likely source of an outbreak and appropriated money to address the issue. He feels it's important to fix problems as they occur.
 - **Chair L Murray** said infrastructure work was also done recently at Albee Beach.
 - **W Muir** cited two cyanobacteria blooms this spring, this summer will be hotter than usual.
 - **B Rossiter** said Governor Sununu made an appropriation three weeks ago: a \$1 million Loan and Grant Fund targeting cyanobacteria.
 - **J Brown** pointed out that only 10% of any loan is forgivable. It's not yet clear what the Loan to Grant Ratio is.
- ii. **Discussion of Tucker Pond and Invitation to Rick Van de Poll to attend WWC Meeting:**
- **W Muir** said the Town should re-apply for a 319 Grant for Tucker Pond in 2024 (no grant was awarded for 2023).
 - **Chair L Murray** asked about contacting Rick Van de Poll to invite him to attend a WWC meeting. One topic of discussion could be stream restoration for fish runs.
- iii. **Discussion of Cyanobacteria Outbreaks in Lake Wentworth and Crescent Lake:**
- **W Muir:** How should we assess this situation? NH State is concerned this issue has been overlooked in the past. We're trying to figure out an approach. Will volunteers help us?
- iv. **Discussion of Dissolved Phosphorous, possible treatments:**
- c. **Communication subcommittee update:**
- i. The **Summer Newsletter** is about to be released.
M DeVries provided an article to the Granite State News.
Communication Chain for Cyanobacteria Bloom: We want to add WWC to the e-mail chain. Who is contacted after DES?
W Muir asked about outreach to local landscaping companies?
J Brown said Wentworth Watershed Association hosted an event in 2018 for landscapers to learn best practices and be listed on the website as enlightened providers. She described a rotating program of workshops for local companies that provide landscaping, roadway

maintenance (including snow clearance), and septic installation. She said it's equally important for local homeowners to request enlightened contractors.

J Brown: On the topic of July 4th fireworks, she is concerned about the amount of debris from traditional fireworks that is deposited into lakes. There are alternatives for light shows which would not contribute to the proliferation of bad bacteria in our lakes.

Chair L Murray said that the fireworks issue is also listed in Mitigation.

d. Rust Pond: North Inlet Tributary Hydrology Evaluation by Comprehensive Environmental Inc.

- i. **A Slocum, Report/Update:** The rip rap installed at Rust Pond serves the State Highway. He is meeting with State DOT because no remediation for the body of water, Rust Pond, is being provided.

L Peard said this sounds like a good start.

J Brown said she has been part of this conversation with State DOT: the removal of existing vegetation for addition of rip rap is probably standard practice for roadway "maintenance"; however, it is not ideal for a body of water such as Rust Pond.

P O'Brien asked if, budget-wise, the Town should be considering some form of remediation for Rust Pond?

Chair L Murray said "Perhaps, eventually."

e. Jockey Cove E. Coli issues:

- i. **Steps taken by the Town to address known septic system failure:**

- **Chair L Murray** outlined some of the site history. A normal reading for E. Coli is 75, a recent reading was 161. Apparently, there are two - not one - outlets into Jockey Cove. A failed septic system has caused a rise in the level of E. Coli bacteria. Apparently, sewage that has not been properly contained on-site has been draining into Jockey Cove over a long period of time, perhaps years. The Town continues to search for all sources of sewage.
- **P O'Brien** said the Town mobilized quickly about locating one likely source of an outbreak and appropriated money to fix that issue. He feels it is important to address these types of problems as soon as they come up.

- ii. **Update: Testing**

1. Private citizen
2. Town testing plan

f. Whitegate Road Stormwater issues, update:

- **W Muir** said Steve got back to him and would like to meet with a WWC triumvirate (Chair L Murray, BOS Rep Brad Harriman, and Warren Muir himself). Steve has some suggestions. WWC needs to outline a Scope of Work before meeting with Steve.

g. 319-Grant Phases:

- i. **Wentworth Watershed:** Applied but did not receive grant in 2023, will reapply for 2024.

- ii. **319-Grant for Phase 5 of Wentworth-Crescent Lake Management Plan:** future match is between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

h. 2023 Warrant Articles:

- i. **Article 13 for \$1 Million Passed: Forest Road and Varney Road.** Scope of work: A low-pressure sewer line for which property owners will be required to install their own infrastructure to utilize the system (septic tank and pumps). The Bid was awarded to Dawson's Excavation & Utility LLC. Work scheduled to start this fall.
 - ii. **Article 19 Passed: Green Street upgrade will address drainage along with water, sewer, and road upgrade for \$530,000.** Bid award to Lyman & Sons Inc. Work scheduled to start this fall.
 - iii. **Article 31 Passed: Water Quality Non-Capital Reserve Fund, for \$100,000.**
- i. **Wolfeboro Public Safety Building: Article 11 passed.** The Project went before the Planning Board [PB] on 6/20/2023; PB made Non-Binding Recommendations to the Town Manager and Project Management Team. For discussion about site drainage plan, refer to Planning Board 6/20/2023 Meeting Minutes.

WWC Input on Public Safety Building: Should WWC send a letter to Town Manager/Steering Committee on this? Due to mobilization issues, Town may need to take out existing trees in the front setback. If this happens, one item which is being developed now by Norway Plains is an additional stormwater management system in the front of the building. Town might have to request additional funds and/or search for grant funding, and/or see if any other funds are available elsewhere: possibly Water Resources Non-Capital Reserve. More to follow.

j. Prior Years Projects:

- i. **Port Wedeln Drainage Project:** It is Chair L Murray's understanding that this project has a tank prior to the beach outlet to slow the water down. Stantec Engineers are working on this project. They are to be informed that Wolfeboro Waters Committee is concerned about the direct outlet to Lake Winnepesaukee. This project is on hold until an upgraded design is completed and will require a 2024 Warrant Article for additional funds.
- ii. **Route 28 South DOT Project:** The Committee needs to monitor the drainage for this project. The BOS signed an agreement with Huggins Hospital for salt storage at the Public Safety Building instead of on Huggins Hospital property. In that agreement, Huggins agrees to provide an easement to the Town and NHDOT for a potential stormwater treatment system to treat stormwater from Town and State rights-of-way to be defined at a later time. NHDOT met with Huggins Hospital to discuss the use of some of their land for drainage. The drainage planning work has begun.

1. **The Rt. 28 Steering Committee met on June 29 at 2:00:** 1) The drainage area behind the Hospital will be smaller than previously thought. 2) No clear drainage plan was presented: most likely not until next year. 3) Two smaller sites around Kingswood Areas. 4) Discussion of tariff control and how to create two lanes. Existing trees may have to be cut down.

- k. **A Plan for Storm Drain Stencils:** Put labels on the Town's storm drains to educate the public about how drains take pollutants directly into our waters. Approved by BOS. Some drains have been stenciled.
- l. **Road Salt used on Road:** Continue looking at salt use on roads and how it relates to water quality, use best-management practices as they evolve.
- m. **Dockside Parking Lot Drainage:** on hold. There is an issue with a broken drainage pipe.
- n. **Wolfeboro Waters Committee 2023 Budget Request \$21,500: Detail thru May 2023**

Spent thru 5/2023	Budget	Remaining
Assessing	\$17,000	\$11,600
Testing	\$6,000	
Bigelow labs	\$5,000	
Intern	\$6,000	
Communication	\$2,000	\$1,000
Handouts		
Water Summit	\$1,000	
Mitigation and Prevention	\$2,500	\$2,500
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Total		\$15,100

4) **Other Business:**

The Board of Selectmen approved hiring an Environmental Engineering Consultant Firm for a second set of eyes on the Part Wedeln project, Whitegate Road project, and RT 28 project.

Current Project Status of Route 28 at State Level:

- **P O'Brien** said the recent meeting with NH DOT wasn't very encouraging. The hospital is more focused on a large renovation project outside of NH, they are less focused on Route 28 issues.
- **J Brown** said that NH DOT does not seem to have any Water Conservation programs. She has reached out to NH DOT numerous times and, to date, hasn't heard back.
- **P O'Brien** has the impression that the Route 28 Project is shrinking and that NH DOT seems to be planning to do less and less work on Route 28. He described a Layer Cake Paradigm for construction work in and disruption to the Right-Of-Way: 1) Bottom Layer: the Water Supply Infrastructure is located in the deepest layer and is the most expensive to repair/replace, 2) Middle Layer: the Sewer Infrastructure is the mid-layer, the next most expensive to repair/replace, 3) Top Layer: the Road Surface Paving is the uppermost layer and is the least expensive to repair/replace. One scenario with a smaller construction b is to delay deep subsurface work and repave the road surface only.
- **M DeVries** asked if WWC would be willing to send a more formal letter to NH DOT?
- **P O'Brien** said WWC is a cohesive team with a great deal of expertise.
- **J Brown** said that there are four lakes impacted by the Route 28 Project.
- **M DeVries to L Peard**: Would you be willing to Chair this subcommittee, get hold of Jeb, and speak to the lack of a stormwater plan for Route 28?

5) **Next meeting**: Next Meeting Date will be August 14 at 1:00pm, location to be determined.

6) **Adjournment**: Art Slocum made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 3:00pm. Seconded by Libby Peard. Approved unanimously.

Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted,

Livia M. Nicolescu

Master Plan Goals:

1. Support increased oversight and coordination of stormwater management based on the increased number of these projects.
2. Put labels on the Town's storm drains to educate the public that they take pollutants directly into our waters.
3. Continue looking at salt use on roads and how it relates to water quality and then use best management practices as they evolve.
4. The Town must continue to work with State and Regional Groups that help steward, manage, and protect water resources.
5. Support existing watershed planning efforts on Lake Wentworth, Crescent Lake, Rust Pond, Mirror Lake, Wolfeboro Bay, and Winter Harbor and develop plans for the watershed that are not presently under study.