



## Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Friends of Wilson Pond Area, Inc. July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2008

President Dot Lamson called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM, and welcomed everyone. Those present (15 individuals) introduced themselves.

The printed secretary's minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were reviewed, corrected, and approved (Lamson, Ryder).

The printed treasurer's report was reviewed and approved (Mulholland, Sheltmire). It was noted that dues and donations are down for this year, but this is a mid-year Report, and some members renew or donate at the end of the tax year. We also get some new members at the booths at Forest Heritage Days and Fly-In. Cheryl Brown also suggested mentioning the organization at the local association meetings, and encouraging people there to join.

### Old Business:

- Loon Count 2007: Phyllis reported that there were 8 adult loons on Lower Wilson and 10 adults and one chick on Upper Wilson. The count this year will be held on July 19<sup>th</sup> from 7-7:30 A.M. Phyllis, Bob, Lynda, Cheryl and Josh Shoemaker will count on Lower Wilson, and Ron Walden and Betty Ryder will count on Upper Wilson.
- Wildlife Sightings: Members have seen rabbits, deer and fawns, a coyote with 4-6 pups, foxes, turkeys, moose, beavers, a mink, loons with chicks, eagles and a chick (the nest is in the Thoroughfare), a barred owl, a merganser with 9 chicks, a golden eye with 6 chicks, black ducks, a pair of ruddy ducks, and turtles. Members are encouraged to send photos of wildlife to Cheryl to be included on the website.
- Water Quality Testing: Both ponds are lower than the EPA's maximum for drinking water. Maynard Russell tests the lower pond, but Phyllis and Bob Courter are looking for someone to test the upper pond, since they cannot always get there when the water is lowered. It is usually done every two weeks in the summer, although it could also be done monthly. If anyone knows of someone on the Upper Pond who might be interested, please notify Phyllis. They need to be trained and certified.
- Jet Skis: Nothing has been done since last year's meeting. This must be a vote of the town of Greenville for Lower Wilson, and we would need to collect signatures to put it on the ballot. The law banning personal

watercraft on certain lakes and pond was challenged on Lake St. George Lake in 2005, but the State Supreme Court upheld the law in 2008.

### **New Business:**

- **Educational Programs:** There will be a tour of the Easement with the Plum Creek forester on July 21<sup>st</sup>. We will meet in the Katahdin Parking Lot at 9 AM to carpool, or you may meet at the end of the logging road at 10 AM. Bring binoculars.
- **Informational Booths 2008:** Phyllis Courter passed around a sign-up list for volunteers to man the table at Forest Heritage Days and Fly-In.
- **T-shirts:** Members are encouraged to wear their Friends T-shirts. We are now selling pink and white shirts in addition to the grey and blue ones. Cost is still \$ 10 for members and \$15 for non-members. Buy them for your family and guests!
- **Campsite discussion:** Both the Rum Point and Birch Point campsites have had site inspections for outhouses. We have permission from Plum Creek to build them. The Rum Point site would need a variance because there is not a 100 foot setback, and also would need a great deal of gravel. However, we could put in a composting toilet at a later date. We have a permit to build an outhouse on Birch Point. That will need a 17'x 17'x 10' gravel bed. We hope to complete the work this summer. Please notify Dot if you can help. We will also need signs to encourage cleanliness.
- **Trash:** The individual local road associations have applied for trash pick-up from the town, but we need to start educating everyone about composting to cut down on all trash. Also, as they travel around the ponds by boat, all members are encouraged to take plastic bags and gloves to collect trash from campsites, etc.
- **Website:** Cheryl will contact Max Hall to update the site.
- **New Easement Inquiries:** We brainstormed criteria to consider when requests are made about taking on additional easements. Points to consider include:
  - Maintaining the pristine nature of Upper Wilson in view of the proposed development there.
  - Limiting our scope to the watershed area.
  - Sending info to all in the watershed area, inviting them to join.
  - A Land Trust has to be an active organization.
  - There may be grants or other funding available, but we need people who would write them and monitor them.
  - We should emphasize the tax advantages of donating the development rights to land to encourage people to donate.
  - We would need to pay for the legal work of taking on an easement unless the owner would agree to pay it.

- Hillary Worthen was involved in the original easement purchase, during which legal costs were approximately \$ 5000.00 (in the early 90's), but the process dragged on because of the negotiations with new owners (Scott, then Sappi, then Plum Creek), each of which had new requirements. The original offer was to purchase Rum Mountain. They wanted \$1000.00 per acre for the 500 acres. We settled on the current easement with a 500 foot setback from the shore.
- Election of Officers: The current Board of Directors was unanimously re-elected (Lamson, Mulholland) Dot Lamson, (past president), without specifying officers: Betty Ryder, Kay Johnson, Cheryl Brown, Phyllis Courter, Hillary Worthen, Cameron Walden, Frank McIver, and Liz Burroughs. Dot Lamson will attend as past president. However, several members are willing to give their seats to interested members. Please encourage or invite people to serve, and contact Phyllis if you or someone you know is interested in serving on the board. It was also suggested that board meetings could be conducted using Skype free video conferencing with a \$ 30.00 Webcam, or we could do audio conferencing with dial-up service.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl J. Brown, secretary