

WHPWA Meeting

March 9, 2023

Those in attendance:

Merritt Blakeslee, Susan and Alan Harris, Will Anderson, Judy Kildow, Maggie Fairbrother, Dave McFarland, Valerie and David Breen, Ron Reinhart, Nate Cagle

The WHPWA held a special meeting March 9, 2023, when 1) the Harrisese' offer to purchase 5 no-wake signs was discussed for placement at strategic points on the pond, as well as the related issue of whether to publicize or keep quiet about the activities of our loons, particularly when nesting and raising their fragile baby. The meeting was held primarily to consider their offer and to discuss alternatives for keeping the loon nests safe. One concern with their offer was whether placing the buoys in the pond might create another "float plane" moment, with the potential to create animosities that last for years and years?" The decisions taken in the meeting were guided by an awareness that we did not want to antagonize anyone, did not want to start a culture war, and did want to preserve our inclusive "culture of quiet coexistence."

The signs proposed by the Harrisese were quite large, and the sense of the meeting swung from the notion that they would be good idea to the perception that they would be domineering, authoritarian, and an eyesore. We also discussed the state law pertaining to lakes such as ours (as well as to offshore waters) that dictates a no-wake zone within 200 feet from any shore or island and determined that parts of our lake do permit speeds above headway.

In the end, we agreed that there were very few of those "hair-on-fire motorboaters," that they weren't on the Pond for very long each summer, and that the problem they create is best dealt with through quiet, individual diplomacy rather than through hectoring signage.

We also agreed not to publicize the presence of any loon nest (as some lakes do to warn boaters to stay away) and to say little about the presence of any loon chicks on the website until the season is over.

Submitted by,

Judith Kildow, (with the help of Merritt Blakeslee)

Secretary