

Minutes for WHPWA Annual Meeting, August 4, 2024

On Sunday, August 4th, a rainy and muggy day, members and friends of the West Harbor Pond Watershed Association met for their Annual Meeting and potluck, inside, at the Blakeslee home. Martha Blakeslee hosted the meeting herself, because Merritt, Association President, was away at the time. The meeting was called to order about 1:30PM by Board member, Nate Cagle, acting on behalf of Merritt.

Nate introduced the new member of the Board of Directors, Susan Harris, and asked for a vote to approve her position. He then asked for votes to approve renewal of two more members of the BoD, Maggie Fairbrother and Judy Kildow, who were re-elected for three-year terms expiring in 2027. All were approved.

Valerie Breen, the Treasurer, gave her report and indicated we had more than \$11K in the bank account. She thanked all those who had paid their dues and thanked those who had donated for their generosity. Judy Kildow gave the update on membership over the past few years, indicating 43 members last year and urging everyone to update their memberships for the coming year.

After the normal business for the meeting was finished, Nate gave the President's report from notes Merritt had sent him. (A copy of the meeting script, including the report, is attached.) He described some of the multiple activities that had taken place over the year, including the introduction of a much more extensive monitoring of the pond, stabilizing the siphon from damage over the harsh winter and correcting the placement problems that had been identified, along with purchasing a monitoring system which would allow us to know if something had gone wrong again. The work done should avoid further problems.

Nate then introduced the keynote speaker for the afternoon, Rebecca Jacobs, Program Manager for the Knox-Lincoln County Soil and Conservation District and Natural Resources Manager for the Regional Water District. She spoke about the KLCSCD program to ensure environmentally friendly yards, giving examples of what each of us could do with our own yards, including submitting a form for one of their experts to visit our homes and recommend how we could be better stewards. She left forms for us to submit and said someone would call us to make an appointment. Many of those present filled out the forms and left their names with her. After she took questions, the meeting was officially closed, and the potluck supper got underway with lots of conversations that followed.

We hope to see more attendees next year and remind everyone to send in their dues.

Submitted by Judith Kildow,

Secretary