**Westmore Association Annual Board Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, July 23, 2020

Attendance: 31 members joined virtually (including Board members)

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| **Topic**  | **Discussion Points** |
| **Opening Remarks** | Daniel called the meeting to order. Daniel acknowledged the board members and their continued commitment to the Westmore Association. Brief review & approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes: Request to send to members and add to website. |
| **President’s Update** | Plans for the 2020 summer: bench building, concerts, hoe-down, water quality presentation, etc., all cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Hoping to host the events (and maybe more) next year, 2021.2019-2020 Westmore Association Accomplishments:* **Westmore Association Website:** The new [Westmore Association website](https://www.westmoreassociation.org/) is live. Daniel provided a brief virtual walk through during the meeting. The new website includes information about the Association, board members, events, lake & trail information, etc. There is also a page for members to go into the archives, meeting minutes, by-laws, and a forum section where members can log-in and post questions.
* **Westmore Association Logo:** Additionally, the Westmore Association launched a new logo. Daniel brought up the image for viewing. The Board is in the process of developing products (bags, t-shirts, etc.) with the new logo to continue to promote the Association.
	+ Comment: Car sticker and magnets would be a great addition
* **Milfoil/Greeter Program:** The Association increased their contribution to the town for the milfoil and greeter program. This year’s contribution will now be in the amount of $8,000, which will continue for future years to maintain the quality of the lake. Katherine Busby initiated this process and all Board members agreed that the health of the lake was the priority. Additionally, the Association has approved a rate/wage increase for the greeters working this summer.
* **Scholarships**- 5 scholarships awarded of $1,000 (1 new and 4 renewals)
	+ Brooke Perkins- LRUHS High School Graduate, studying early childhood education
	+ Callie-Rae Cashin- Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the University of Rode Island
	+ William Cashin- Accounting Major at the Northern Vermont University
	+ Megan – Criminal Justice Major at the Southern New Hampshire University
	+ Emma Strange- Music Major at the New England Conservatory
* **Tobacco Receptacles at the North Beach:**
	+ A local Prevention group approached the Westmore Association with the idea to install cigarette receptacles at the North Beach. Daniel worked with the town for installation and is hoping to expand some of those across all parts of the beach.

2019-2020 Westmore Association Collaborations:* **Northwoods:** Meetings have occurred with the new Executive Director, Maria Young, to discuss potential collaborations in the coming years. The focus for their trail crew this summer season is trail maintenance on the Mt. Hor trail. Other priorities include Bald Mountain (3), Wheeler and Haystack trails. Northwoods also maintains the Nordic trails up the CCC roads. The Westmore Association will continue to keep members updated with the next steps on trail/land projects.
* **Old Stone House (OSH):** Discussions have occurred with Katherine French regarding calendar development/sales. The Westmore Association took a year off (2020) from printing them, looking at picking it back up next year due to demand. The proposed idea for next year is to collaborate with OSH to coordinate a calendar with a tribute to the CCC camp and a dedication to Jean Haigh, who passed away last fall. The calendar would include vintage and contemporary photos of the CCC camp. Daniel will send updates to members. Goal is to have something put together by end of summer for next calendar year.
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| **Westmore Association** **Community Acknowledgment** | Last year, the Westmore Association acknowledged and honored the Tanner family. This year, the Board members have selected Mildred “Millie” Davis as the 2020 honoree. The Association will present the plaque tomorrow to Millie at her home. Millie has been a long-standing community member, contributing to various causes over the years. Her kindness is infectious, as anyone who has met her may attest to. The Association would like to thank her for her years of service and commitment to Westmore and are honored to provide her with this acknowledgment, which is a surprise!  |
| **Treasures Report** | Irene Salerno provided a thorough presentation of the Treasures Report (Jan-December 2019). **Revenue included:*** Memberships and donations extensive, more than 200 families responding. Some families donated specifically toward causes. For example, the Spring 2019 town forest project brought in higher donations than expected.
* Products and events (activities and music) also contributed to funds.

**Expenses included:** * Admin costs ( costs (print, mailing, postage, insurance, membership with FOVLAP, website maintenance, hall rental, etc.), scholarships, Northwoods (trails), greeter/milfoil.

The Association recently switched to the North Country Federal Credit Union for banking purposes, which has improved ability to conduct treasurers’ activities remotely.  |
| **Membership** | Members: Daniel reported that membership was low in late spring. However, since the spring newsletter was distributed, membership has grown again, currently at 151 members. Daniel encouraged members to share information about the association/organization with people that might be interested in joining. Past membership numbers surpassed 200. Board Members: In addition to overall members, the Association is also seeking new board members. If anyone is interested, please reach out about joining. There are openings for at least 2 members. Some of the current board members, Betsy & Abbie, have agreed (approved by Board) to continue for 1 more year, despite term ending. Both Daniel (President) and Ellie (Vice President) have also agreed to stay on this year. Other board members remain active in their term.  |
| **Future Plans** | The Association will continue to collaborate with some of the organizations referenced previously to work on trail maintenance and calendar/products. The 2021 summer events will also continue to be discussed and planned, given we are in a better place come next summer. The Boat Parade was cancelled this year, but will be planned to happen again next summer, with the Westmore Fire Department leading the effort. Flower beds at the triangles (bottom of Peene & Hinton Hill)- The Association is looking for volunteers to help weed. Last year, members from the Board volunteered to clean them up, which saved funds. if anyone is interested in supporting this, please reach out to Daniel or Betsy.  |
| **Discussion Points/Chat Box** | Is the CCC camp on State land? Is the State rebuilding the CCC Camp? I have concern over how the unauthorized camping at the South end is eroding the shoreline buffer zone.* CCC Camps are state land and the re-building did include coordination with the state and Friends of Willoughby State Forest, which Pam Kennedy and Jean Haigh were a part of. Daniel will send information to members

What is the status of the State’s plan to build bathroom (and shower?) facilities at the South End? With many, many people there on nice days, it is an unsustainable situation to have insufficient bathroom facilities* Not sure where everything stands. Conversations continue with the state and town. Daniel encouraged anyone interested to reach out to the state.

Can we address whether there will be Lake water testing in accordance with the VT Department of Health recommendations for COVID-19 precautions for freshwater lakes?* Lake is tested annually, not sure about the COVID specific precautions. Daniel encouraged anyone interested to reach out to the

What are the plans to add highspeed internet to Westmore (both sides of Lake Willoughby) or to join the high-speed alliance?* Jen inquired about the town joining the NEK Community Broadband Coalition during the 2020 March Town meeting. At that time, town leadership said they had not been able to connect with the organizers of this group to participate.

Would it be possible to have the state put trash cans at the upper and lower parking lots of Sentinel State Park and have them emptied regularly? * Northwoods did the work, Daniel will contact them about this possibility.
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