



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT THE PROPOSED MERGER OF THE WLA AND THE WLTC



Why is the WLA considering a merger with the WLTC at this time?

The WLA and WLTC currently exist as two separate corporate entities with separate boards that share a common staff. There is often a duplication of effort in communications, business functions and program management, which results in inefficiencies in the use of staff time and resources.

The two organizations share similar missions and goals. Over time, however, confusion has developed among our various stakeholders regarding the organizations' programs, activities and resources. Additionally, because the WLA is not a 501C3 non-profit, it has not always had the financial resources it needs, limiting its ability to accomplish its goals.

What are the benefits to merging the two organizations?

The merger would create greater staff efficiency, improved programming, enhanced communication and transparency and an equitable sharing of assets. The combined resources of talented and committed volunteers and staff will result in stronger, more aligned programs.

What would the combined organization be called?

*The new organization would be the **Walloon Lake Association and Conservancy**.*

What would the new organization's mission be?

"To conserve and care for Walloon Lake and its watershed while enhancing the connection of people to Walloon, now and forever"

How would the combined organization be governed?

The 12 WLA directors and 11 WLTC trustees will be combined into a new board, which will operate under a new set of bylaws. The size of the board would eventually be reduced through attrition. The new board will work with current staff.

When would the merger take effect?

The merger must first be approved by WLA members. Voting will be completed by May 15; if approved, the new organization must then be approved as a 501C3 non-profit by the state. When that occurs the new organizational structure will take effect.

Will either organization lose any programs or services to members?

No. Both organizations signed a memorandum of understanding confirming that the merger represents a union of two equal organizations, and that the philosophy and goals of each organization shall be preserved and given equal importance. Programs and activities already scheduled or planned for fiscal years 2019 or 2020 will be retained and funded.

Where can we find additional information if needed?

Members can go online to walloon.org; attend the virtual town hall meeting on April 26 at 1:30 PM; attend a special membership meeting on May 10 at 3:00 PM at the Talcott Center in the Walloon Village or call the WLA office at 231-535-6112.

How and when do we vote?

You can vote in one of three ways: sign and return the enclosed proxy; vote online or vote in person after the town hall meeting on May 10 at 3:00 PM. Whatever way you choose to vote, it must be completed by noon on May 15, and there is only one vote per membership or household.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!