

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
Board of Directors' Meeting 10/14/06

Members in Attendance : Burr Southworth, Mary Clarke, David Sanford, Paul Lord, Carl Good, Mickie Richtsmeier, and Scottie Baker

The meeting was called to order by OLA President, Paul Lord.

OCCA Relationship: Paul introduced Eric Miller from OCCA. Paul indicated that we were delighted to have Eric join us and were particularly looking forward to increased cooperation with OCCA. Eric explained that OCCA was coming up on its 40th anniversary and that OCCA has a full time staff and some 500 members. There was a discussion of OLA being an entirely volunteer organization with its exclusive focus being implementation of the Lake Management plan, while OCCA had a broader, county-wide focus and greater ability to seek funding resources. It was also remarked that OLA had historically been a member of OCCA. Eric stressed the importance of organizations not duplicating services and competing for funding. Paul remarked that OLA has sought to support areas that have otherwise been overlooked and that we were committed to advocating for common goals with OCCA. Eric indicated that he felt OCCA should be supporting grassroots organizations like OLA and partnering so we all could be more efficient in reaching our goals. The Board reiterated its appreciation for Eric's appearance and the advent of increased cooperation between the two organizations.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Clarke presented a complete financial report with total disbursements of \$3345.21 and total receipts of \$4042.49 leaving a balance of \$10,444.82. She noted that OLA had allocated \$4000 for the sediment project (of which we have spent \$1056.08) and \$2500 for the buffer strip (note that later in the proceedings these allocations were re-evaluated.) Mary informed us that she had received 117 memberships (down from a high of 160 members). Mary also said that we had received a thank you note from the SUNY Oneonta Foundation for our donation toward the BFS compressor. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

Committee Reports:

No Wake Zone Buoys/ Divers- Paul reported that all but 4 buoys have been replaced with spar buoys for winter (two were damaged, one intentionally and irreparably, the other with minor damage). The new compressor was installed last week for which Paul says the divers are very grateful.

Cooperstown Boat Inspections/Wash - Carl reported that we have all experienced inspectors. The boat launch was open from 5am until 7pm during the summer and will continue with shortened hours (7am to 5pm) until the end of October. Last year we paid back \$3000 to the Village, and this year that same amount will be paid solely by launch fees. There also was a \$10,000 grant for this thanks to OCCA. Carl also reported that about 1150 boats have been launched this year.

Springfield Launch- Mary informed us that there had been serious erosion at the Springfield Landing and that enforcement had been hit or miss. It was agreed that OLA would send representatives to the Springfield Board to revisit this in March.

Merchandise- Scottie reported that the OLA merchandise is great both from a PR and fundraising point of view. She regrets that we missed selling at the Pumpkin Fest. Scottie will get the chamber calendar and will organize our planning ahead so we can be present at all major events. She feels that we have all the inventory we need at present.

Web Site- Burr discussed the need for a separate OLA website (up to this point, he had been using his personal site). We also discussed the possibility of having a simpler name than our current otsegolakeassociation.org. A motion was made to allocate not more than \$80 for a separate site, registering a new name, and maintaining the old site "alias" for a year. This was seconded and unanimously passed. Burr will explore available name alternatives.

Summary of Lake Activity by DEC and County. Paul asked David if he would ask for this information. BOD members reported the activity they had seen this summer.

David also brought up our commitment for OLA to adopt a section of the East Lake Rd. He reported that he has inquired but that this program had not been initiated as of yet because there have not been county personnel available to make the signage.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee- Carl reported that he attends these meetings once a month. The Biological Field Station, Canadarago Lake Improvement Association, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NYCAMH, NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation, NYS Dept of Health, OCCA, Otsego Co. Planning Department, Otsego County SWCD, OLA, Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee, Otsego Land Trust, and Otsego 2000 are represented and are briefed as to what is happening. Carl said that he will forward the minutes from the Committee to our BOD. He also said that July 14 has been set as the date for the 2007 Lake Festival.

Otsego 2000- Scottie refreshed our memories about her being OLA liaison to the Otsego 2000 Board. She reported that issues with wind power had taken precedence over the previously agreed upon concentration on ditching practices for this year. Eric raised his concern that there might be duplication of efforts with regard to this since OCCA had given \$9600 toward ditch hydro-seeding. Paul clarified that OLA was targeting steep places requiring fabric lining etc. specifically because of the OCCA initiative directed at ditching. It was agreed that representatives of the three organizations should sit down and discuss where to go with this. Paul suggested that OLA should write a letter raising awareness of this important issue in the various townships.

Scottie also indicated that Otsego 2000 BOD had been discussing the possibility of becoming a membership organization and wanted OLA to provide information on our by-laws, nonprofit paperwork, and approximate cost of maintaining membership for a year. We discussed where this information was available, and Scottie will provide it.

Lake Front Buffer Strip- Carl reported that he and Mickie had meet with BOCES administration and faculty and that they had agreed to build the boardwalk. They will work and hopefully have a CAD drawing and accurate estimate in a month. The plan would be to produce the boardwalk by mid-May. Carl said there will be a Village Trustee Meeting and public hearing on the project on Monday night (10/16). Carl has also had a session with the zoning board, and John Lambert is following up on questions about this. Paul will follow up with the DEC. Carl estimates that the \$8000 projection

may actually come in lower (perhaps \$6500) and that the BOCES faculty has suggested modifications that will be favorable economically.

With regard to fundraising, Carl has leads from Vinnie Russo on funding sources that might be approached with regard to grants for handicapped accessible projects. A discussion followed about how much should be spent on this one project. Carl agreed to pursue the leads from Vinnie, and Paul will target some community organizations for support for this specific project. A motion was made, seconded and passed that we increase our allocation for the Buffer Strip to \$3000 contingent on approval by the Village. This will enable Carl to proceed to order some of the materials for the boardwalk so that they will be available when the BOCES students are available to work on the project.

Member Comment -Mr. Bill Smith who had been in attendance at the meeting asked the BOD to have OLA advocate regarding sedimentation in Willow Brook. Paul replied that this was indeed an area of which we were well aware and explained the various imperatives in dealing with this problem. Mr. Smith also stated his concern that the rip-rap at the Lake Front be continued.

Mud Plume Photography- Paul shared with us the complexities of plotting the plumes in the watershed. This requires carefully pre-planned flight paths. Resulting pictures also have to be able to be married together by overlap. Focus areas would be starting with Willow Creek through Cooperstown, the west side of the lake, and then the north end of the lake.

Old Business

Possible OLA-CAA exhibit focusing on lake scenes at the Cooperstown Art Association. David will follow up on this. Hopefully we can time it so we can advertise it in newsletter or mailing.

Newsletter - Paul, who has done a super job with this, needs to turn it over to someone else due to time constraints. He will continue to contribute articles but needs someone to work on layout, printing, and mailing. Rob Lee volunteered to look into this. He hopes to either find someone in the membership or to partner with someone to take over this project. Paul will provide Rob with a list of members. Rob also will look into printing options.

Letter writing/ Thank you notes- Paul was looking for a copy of our letterhead. He has created a new one. BOD reviewed this and a draft of a thank you letter. Mary will get info regarding donor address to Paul.

Municipality Coordination regarding ditching and salting- Paul will organize a 30 minute "pitch" on both to give to municipalities. He asked Scottie, Mary, and Carl to help him schedule this (after Dec1 and prior to April 1) with their respective towns.

New Business

Treasurer Position- Mary has taken on the position of Chair of the Springfield Planning Board and is unable to continue with the Treasurer position as it currently exists. Paul complimented Mary on the splendid job she has done, and after some discussion, Mary agreed to remain on as Treasurer if someone would take over the maintaining the

membership data base. David volunteered to take this on. A motion was made and seconded to elect David to the new position of membership chairman and for Mary to remain as Treasurer. This was unanimously accepted by the BOD.

Lake Front Park Fundraising - Paul will speak to Rotary at the end of the month. He is willing to talk to any other groups. (Carl will connect him with a rep of Lion's Club).

2007 Membership Campaign- After the first of the year, Paul would like to speak to any groups to solicit potential members. We also would like to include the following to our mailing list: Country Club membership and Village dock renters (Carl will provide), Sailing Club (Paul), Bayside (Mickie). We will use our February 3 BOD meeting to prepare the mailing. Prior to that Paul will prepare the membership letters and connect with Rob Lee who is investigating printing options, David will prepare the labels and update the mailing list, and Mary will buy stamps. A motion was passed to authorize Mary to buy up to \$500 worth of stamps before the end of 2006. (As we were discussing this, the question was raised whether our by-laws permit email voting. We have tried to anticipate upcoming situations and have made motions that will cover expenditures that we can predict.)

Springfield Landing Buffer Strip- The BOD agree that we want to show a focus outside of the Village. There was a discussion about what was needed more at the Springfield Landing, ditch seeding or buffer strip plantings. Paul and Mary will talk to Dan Rosen who would be the liaison person on the Springfield Board about this.

Lake Shore Owners Handbook- Paul showed the group the booklet entitled, "Smart Steps for Clean Water" put out by the Cayuga Lake Association. He has been in contact with their executive director, Sharon Anderson, who has agreed to provide us with a "turn key" file of this for our use. The BOD enthusiastically supported our reproducing the booklet with the appropriate changes for Otsego Lake. Paul recommended that we give \$500 to the Cayuga Lake Association for the rights to this publication. After discussion, a motion was passed that we take \$1000 out of the aerial budget and allocate an additional \$2000 for funding of the OLA publication, "Smart Steps for Clean Water". This is contingent on final approval of the BOD by email vote. Paul, Scottie, and Mickie will re-engineer the document, and Paul will follow up and get a cost estimate.

Nonprofit Status Renewal- Paul will pass on the paperwork for this to John Lambert (10/20). He will continue to confer with John.

Lake Management Plan Update- Carl and Paul will work on this. Paul reiterated that OLA has no agenda for influencing plan changes except to reflect our contributions historically.

June General Membership Meeting- Wayne Bunn has been working on organizing a program dealing with the right-of-way issues for NYS Route 80 (West Lake Road) and county Highway 31 (East Lake Road). As Wayne was unable to attend the BOD meeting, he communicated by email that he would like to invite Jerry Murello (Assistant Resident Engineer) of the NYSDOT in Oneonta and Ron Tiderencel (Superintendent) of the Otsego County Highway Dept. in Cooperstown and ask them (or their representative) to make a presentation covering such topics as:

- (1) what a right-of-way is and who owns it (most people don't know- they assume or believe that they own all of the property to the edge of the pavement)
- (2) what can and can not be built in a right-of-way (i.e. retaining walls, stairs, parking areas, mail boxes, flower boxes, etc.)
- (3) the permit process (if the project is allowed)
- (4) construction inspection (by NYSDOT or Otsego Co.)
- (5) time for questions and answers

Dates for Upcoming Meetings- (Paul asked Burr to make sure these were prominently displayed on our website.) All meetings begin at 9AM

Saturday, February 3, 2007 - Board Meeting

Saturday, April 21, 2007 - Board Meeting

Saturday, June 16, 2007 - Annual Meeting

Saturday, April 21, 2007 - Informational Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Mickie Richtsmeier