

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Sarah Coney (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special "Thanks" to Gary for setting up the Zoom meeting – greatly appreciated!

Absent: Tim Pokorny (Webmaster) Note: John May (Director/Middlefield) – has moved to Vermont and resigned

Guests: None

Note: **MMSP** = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING (Started at 10:00 AM)

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty)

Current Balance in Checking Account = \$10,034. Major expenses of approximately \$12,000 included funding for direct hands-on research of lake health including invasive species analysis (64%), newsletter printing and distribution, and OLA merchandise restocking.

2. Tax-Exempt Status (Betty) – The tax-exempt status of OLA is currently up to date although the IRS website may not show this until they update their records. Scottie needs some wording regarding our tax-exempt status to include in the spring 2021 newsletter and on our membership forms. There was a discussion on the need for archive storage of various OLA documents. Bob has offered a file cabinet in a spare room at the Mohican Farm. Other ideas were cloud storage, paid service storage, etc. Betty and Wayne will meet with Bob in May to review the location at the Mohican Farm. **MMSP** to thank Betty and her team for all their time, effort, and persistence in updating the tax-exempt status with the IRS.

Reminder: Filing of Form 990 for IRS 501 (c) 3 is due by April 15th each year.

3. Membership Report (Betty) – Our membership list includes 161 addresses (individuals, families, and businesses). Of the 161 totals, 110 are currently paid up for the year. We received 35 new memberships in 2020. We will keep the expanded mailing list for future newsletters (good return value); need appeal for paid memberships in next newsletter.

NORMAL ITEMS

4. No Wake Zone Buoys, Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Removal of NWZ buoys was completed in October and removal of the CLMB was completed in early December – both using a team approach with three

shifts (due to Covid-19 restrictions). The NWZ buoy at Bissell Point is missing. The volunteer dive team is active this winter with ice dives for training new divers. Volunteers are always welcome.

5. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – The third year of State funding for the lake stewards is ending as well as CRISP funding. Inspections for 2021 should be about the same as 2020. Funding for aquatic invasive species (AIS) is unknown for this year. The Biological Field Station (BFS) has released two reports – one on “Trends in Recreational Watercraft Use in Otsego Lake Since 1975” and the other on “Long-Term Trends in Chloride Concentrations in Otsego Lake from 1925 to 2019”. These can be posted on the OLA website.
6. Merchandise (Scottie) - We had \$650 in sales from fall 2020 newsletter. Sun visors and kids’ gifts might be new items to consider.
7. Newsletter (Scottie) - Susan O’Handley will again coordinate, print, and mail the Spring 2021 newsletter - format will be basically the same as Fall 2020 newsletter with actual mailing planned for June 1st. All draft articles and photos should be submitted to Scottie and Susan by May 15th. Theme for the newsletter will be determined by Scottie later. Potential articles include: Co-Presidents’ message (Jim & David), merchandise for sale (Scottie), annual gathering (Mickie, Gary, & Bob), boat parade (Wayne), new hybrid pondweed and weed beds in lake (Paul), quagga mussels (Paul), CLMB update (Kiyoko), other interesting stories, funny stories about the lake (Board members), what we could do if we had more money (Board members), photographs, application for membership, and fun facts (fillers) about the lake. Goal is to expand the mailing list to include other groups. The spring 2021 newsletter will be sent via e-mail and hard copy. A draft copy of the newsletter will be sent to all BOD members for review and comments.
8. Website (Tim) – No report.
9. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members.
10. Coordination with Other Organizations - This is an on-going process with OCCA, Otsego 2000, and Otsego Land Trust as needed.
11. Boat Parade (Wayne) - OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade will be held again this summer, probably over the 4th of July weekend. Wayne will contact the Boat Parade Committee and start the planning.
12. Annual Membership Gathering (Mickie, Gary, & Bob) - The annual membership gathering (formerly called annual membership meeting) will be a virtual meeting again this year. We were originally scheduled to use the Otsego Sailing Club’s new pavilion, but their Board of Directors has decided to ban the use of the pavilion to all outside groups this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 virus. Other venues were considered but none could provide the space to maintain proper social distancing and other NYSDOH guidelines.
13. NYSFOLA - The 2021 annual conference will be virtual this year and is scheduled for April 29th and 30th. **MMSP** to pay the annual dues each year for OLA as a middle-sized association, current dues are \$100. **MMSP** to reimburse the cost for registration fees and meals (but not vehicle mileage or lodging) each year for any Board member who attends the annual conference. Wayne has submitted the spring 2020 and fall 2020 newsletters to NYSFOLA for entry in their annual newsletter contest – both in the hard copy category and in the digital category.
14. Cooper’s Hybrid Pondweed (Paul) – Mary Keefe has published a Draft copy (dated February 1, 2021) of her 2020 Project Report entitled “Cooper’s Hybrid Pondweed: Impact on Otsego Lake 2020”. The BFS is still waiting for the results of the DNA analysis of the samples taken last summer. The BFS has offered to put Mary’s report in their 2020 Annual Report. Paul has also recommended that the final report be posted to the OLA website.

15. Quagga/Zebra Mussels (Paul & Kiyoko) - SUNY Oneonta has funded a set of collector plates to be deployed by the Volunteer Dive Team on February 27th at the Belmonte camp about 0.5 miles north of Five Mile Point. These plates will be placed on the bottom of the lake at different depths and used to collect Quagga and Zebra Mussels during the late winter and early spring and then moved to another site this summer.
16. Special E-Mailed Lake Updates (Debbie) - Ginny Hastings, an OLA member on the lake, has offered to prepare a brief lake update to be sent via e-mail on perhaps a monthly or semi-monthly basis to keep OLA in front of its members and offer updated information. This is not to replace our normal twice a year full blown newsletter. Debbie will have Ginny prepare a draft copy of the lake updates and then submit it to the Board members for review and comment.
17. Membership Card (Scottie & Betty) – Scottie and Betty have drafted an OLA membership card that can be handed out at various locations or events (i.e., boat washing station, Earth Day, annual gathering, Sam Smith’s, etc.) to remind people to either renew their membership or join for the first time. Susan O’Handley has prepared a two-sided, full color card and the cost will include her design work and printing. A large copy of the card is attached for reference (also see Scottie’s e-mail dated Feb. 22nd.) **MMSP** for \$315 for 1000 cards (5” x 7”) on 100-pound stock.
18. Lake Citizen Award (Wayne) – The Board should start thinking about who should receive the Lake Citizen Award for 2021.
19. Replacement for John May (Board) – John May has moved to Vermont and has resigned as the OLA Director from Middlefield so a replacement from the Town of Middlefield will be needed. Peter will approach Lou Allstadt, who has a camp on the lake in the Town of Middlefield, about joining the OLA Board. Lou’s wife Melinda Hardin will be an alternative.
20. E-Mail Motions by OLA Board - The Board still needs to draft a change to the OLA By-Laws to allow passing motions via e-mails. Paul and Mickie have presented preliminary thoughts and will coordinate the change at a future Board meeting.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

21. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th at 10:00 AM. At this time, it will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT

22. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

MMSP on 09/25/2020 for an additional \$250 for merchandise.

(Continued)

MMSP on 10/27/20 to add the following sentence at the end of Article VI of the By-Laws: “Upon dissolution, any unencumbered funds in the treasury will be donated to one or more tax exempt, 501 (c) 3 organizations as determined by a majority vote by the Board of Directors”.

MMSP on 10/27/20 to delete the following words from Article VII – Office and Books, Section 2 – Books: “which shall contain a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation”.

MMSP on 10/27/2020 for a \$275 filling fee for the IRS 501 (c) 3 tax exempt status.

MMSP on 12/22/2020 to mention Scott Payne’s upcoming book entitled “Leatherstocking Trails: James Fenimore Cooper’s Cooperstown” on OLA’s website and OLA’s Facebook.

MMSP on 01/06/2021 for \$1,500 for the NWZB account at the SWCD for the BFS Volunteer Dive Team to purchase equipment as needed.

ATTACHMENTS: Large copy of 5” x 7” Membership Card

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Winter 2021

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Student Director: Sarah Coney

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Directors/Middlefield: Peter Regan, Vacancy

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Bob Sutherland

“OLABODMtg02272021” File

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