

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9:30 AM

Via MicroSoft Teams

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Tom Chase (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Brian Hefferon (Student Director), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Guests: None

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

A special "Thanks" to Kiyoko for setting up and hosting the meeting - greatly appreciated!

OPENING (Started at 9:33 AM)

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty) - Current balance in Checking Account = \$25,226.66.
2. Membership Report (Betty) – Currently 270 names on e-mail list; 119 are paid members; 12 people owe.

NORMAL ITEMS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys (NWZBs), Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul)

NWZBs – All spar buoys are deployed. The Three Mile Point NWZB anchor chain broke which will be replaced with a new chain and anchor. This work can be done from shore. No spar buoys should be lost this winter due to the lack of heavy ice. The lakefront and Springfield NWZBs will be re-deployed sometime in mid-March if no ice forms this winter. The remaining ones will be re-deployed earlier than normal this year, depending on when the barge is ready with its new deck.

CRISP WSP – 2024 is the 4th year of the 5-year contract. Kari Minissale (2 years' experience as steward & team leader) is the Assistant Coordinator. Team leaders have been hired; more stewards to be hired. CRISP Request for Proposals (RFP) for Aquatic Invasive Species is due on February 9th; up to \$30,000 due in spring 2024.

Biological Field Station – Bill Harman retired at the end of 2023 and Prof. Florian Reyda, PhD is the new BFS Director; he looks forward to attending the next OLA in-person Board meeting and is supportive of OLA. Jim will draft a letter to The Freeman's Journal thanking Harman on behalf of OLA.

4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – Springfield needs power washer.

5. HABs, CSLAP, and Scientific Updates (Doug, Jim, Kiyoko)

HABs & Scientific Updates - Flow into lake from streams is now online; measures heights of flow. Lack of ice on the lake is not good regarding HABs (they benefit from additional sunlight).

CSLAP – Forms and a check have been submitted to NYSFOLA for 2024 sampling. Insurance, liability (signing of waiver), and training (at NYSFOLA conference) are still major issues for volunteers. First year of data is available but need second year for E9 model. Doug and Kiyoko recommend continuing sampling after second year. New volunteers are needed (requires training, lake time, and a boat); Jim will send out an e-mail requesting volunteers along with a letter to The Freeman’s Journal and an article in the OLA Journal.

6. Merchandise (Scottie) – Stock is currently OK.

7. Journal (Mickie) – Normal input needed for next Journal (spring 2024); Scottie is sick and out of service for a while. Mickie may coordinate the next Journal with input from Scottie and Susan.

8. Website (Tim) – Up to date (see Tim’s e-mail dated 02/02/2024). Need a link to Village’s Watershed Supervisory Committee. Will be uploading 2023 CLMB and buoy photos. Will create a road map of Otsego Lake watershed showing Town, County, and State roads.

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 during 4th of July week; date to be determined.

12. Annual Membership Gathering 2024 - (Mickie & Robert, others) - The Annual Membership Gathering (formerly called Annual Membership Meeting) will be held at the Otsego Sailing Club on Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM. Jim will contact and coordinate with the Commadore. Other venues discussed included Cooperstown Country Club (too small), former Girl Scouts camp, and Hyde Hall barn (too small). Planning committee will consist of Mickie, Paul, Doug, Debbie, Betty, and Kiyoko. Main topic to be determined. Other items will be election of officers, the Lake Citizen Award, Presidential Award, scientific updates by Paul, Kiyoko, and students of SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cobleskill plus the silent auction. Wayne to contact The Freeman’s Journal and The Daily Star. Tim will be on vacation that week so Doug will coordinate the coffee and donuts (Tim has all supplies and urns). Tim will finalize two new sign boards and set them out if someone else can pick them up after the meeting.

13. Lake Citizen Award (Board) – To be determined.

14. Presidential Award (Board) – To be determined.

15. Lake Clean Up Day (Debbie) – The 2024 Lake Clean Up Day will be Sunday, August 11th between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Volunteers will be requested at Annual Gathering and Tim will send out an e-mail reminder and request volunteers. Need to be extra careful this year with the barge’s new deck.

16. Ditching (Paul & Mickie) – The Freeman’s Journal has offered to include the Fix The Ditch brochure in a future print edition; decision currently on hold.

NEW ITEMS

17. Community Foundation of Otsego County (Jim) – There is now a fund for Otsego Lake projects and needs. Jim to meet with Jeff Katz, Executive Director. More donors are needed.
18. Earth Festival (Board) – This year’s Earth Festival (formerly called Earth Day) is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Milford Central School. Paul, Mickie, Betty, Doug, and Kiyoko will coordinate and set up the table with OLA merchandise and displays. Paul requested that OLA table be located next to CRISP table.
19. NYSFOLA (Wayne) – Their annual conference is scheduled for May 3rd and 4th in Lake George with CSLAP training scheduled for May 4th. Registration is now open with the agenda to follow in the coming weeks. OLA pays the registration fee for Board members but not travel or hotel expenses. Wayne will submit the print edition of the Fall 2023 issue of the OLA Journal for the newsletter contest; new this year is the “paid staff” category (either inhouse or outside vendor) which OLA must enter. Per Susan O’Handley, the digital form of the Journal does not meet NYSFOLA specifications for the digital category. **MMS**P for OLA to pay the registration fee but not travel or hotel expenses for training of CSLAP volunteers who are not OLA Board members.
20. Route 80 Embankment Failures (Betty) – Two embankment failures on Route 80 occurred in 2023 and more may occur in the future. Betty is setting up a committee to meet with NYSDOT. NYSDOT’s annual budget and goals affect emergency repairs which can be done without public input or review.
21. Winter Update (Mickie) – Mickie, as interim editor, will prepare a winter update to be e-mailed to members and non-members. Major items will include Route 80 embankment failures, need for CSLAP volunteers, HABs, and lake temperatures.
22. Canandaigua Lake Association (Doug) – Doug will send Board members a link to this lake group; very active with mission statement and various committees.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

23. Date for Next Board Meeting – The date, time, and location of the next OLA Board meeting will be determined by Co-Presidents and sent via email.

ADJOURNMENT

24. **MMS**P to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

MMSP on 10/04/2023 to provide an additional \$500 for the No Wake Zone Buoy fund at Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District.

See next page for OLA Board of Directors – Winter 2024

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Winter 2024

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Directors/Middlefield: Peter Regan, Doug Willies

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Tom Chase

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Student Director: Brian Hefferon (SUNY Oneonta)

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Winter Update: Mickie Richtsmeier (Interim Editor)