



President

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Directors

Town of Middlefield
Burr Southworth
Douglas Willies

Town of Otsego
Paul Lord
Robert Reed

Town of Springfield
Mary Clarke
Dan Rosen

Village of Cooperstown
Carl Good
Chuck Hage

Annual Meeting: Otsego Lake Association

Meeting #7 - 6/21/03 - Biological Field Station, Cooperstown

Attendance: 43

501 (C - (3) Status: The association received an advanced ruling from the IRS giving us 501 c 3 status. The association is exempt from paying federal taxes. Contributions and membership dues are tax deductible.

NY State Status: The association received notification from the state that we are now exempt from NY and local sales and use tax.

Introductions and Acknowledgements

The Officers, Board of Directors, technical advisor and law enforcement liaison were introduced. Acknowledgment of their on-going support for the association went to Nancy Einreinhofer, Steve O'Neill, Tom Clarke, Bill Elsey, Paul and Joan Webber, Pam Good, Bill Harman and staff.

Elections

Elections were held to fill Director vacancies in Cooperstown and Otsego. A majority vote of the membership present at the annual meeting is required for confirmation. Bobbie Reed was elected Director for Otsego and Chuck Hage was elected Director for Cooperstown by a unanimous vote. Bobbie will continue to serve as treasurer.

Elections were held for the Office of President. The President is elected for a one-year term, which requires a majority vote of the membership present at the annual meeting. Bob Einreinhofer was re-elected by a unanimous vote of the membership.

Committee Reports

The Officers, Board of Directors, and Advisors have been very busy since the last OLA membership meeting in October 2002, working on various projects in support of the lake management plan. A Director or Advisor has accepted responsibility for each project and reports back to the full board. The following is a brief summary of the reports:

Membership Report (Bobbie Reed) – Membership breakdown as of 6/21/03 is 143 memberships, counting family and endowment memberships as representing two people, number of members is 229.

*23 endowments – (\$75 and over)

*63 family

*48 individual

*9 businesses

*78 members are year round residents

*30 members are willing to serve on committees

*84 members are lakefront residents.

Treasurer's Report (Bobbie Reed) – No officer, director or advisor receive any monetary compensation. A complete breakdown of revenue and expenditures since the formation of the association was handed out.

Logos/Merchandise (Mary Clarke reported by Burr Southworth)

*Tee shirts with the OLA logo on the front and a map of the lake on the back are being sold for \$15 as part of our fund raising efforts.

*20 prints of the Goodyear swamp were donated by Scottie Baker, Natura Productions, and offered for sale.

Education/ Publicity (Dan Rosen)

*Educational articles as they relate to the lake management plan are being run in the local newspapers on a weekly basis.

**Did you know* Articles are being run in the Pennysaver on a weekly basis.

*OLA presentations were made to the Cooperstown Rotary and the Chamber of Commerce. The Rotary presentation focused on the Association's accomplishments and what work needs to be done to implement the Lake Management Plan. The Chamber presentation concentrated on the impact the lake has on local commerce.

No Wake Zone Buoys (Win McIntyre)

*The buoys have not been put out yet due to the Otsego Soil and Water Conservation District Board's decision that they cannot accept liability for the buoys with no law enforcement on the lake.

*OLA has written a letter to Commissioner Castro of the Parks Dept. explaining the situation and requesting Park Police Patrols.

*OLA letter written to Capt. Duffy of the Region 4 DEC requesting their support with lake patrols.

*A meeting is being set up with OLA, DEC, and the Park Police to resolve the patrol issue.

*OLA met with the County Public Safety Committee to get the Sheriff's Patrol back on the lake. The County did not approve any funds in 2003 to support the Sheriff's Patrol on Otsego, Goodyear, or Canadarago Lake. The safety committee stated that funds are available but the Sheriff's Dept. has no qualified personnel for the Patrol. OLA was informed by a representative of the Sheriff's Dept. that they did not recruit or qualify personnel when the budget was cut. They currently have two qualified officers for the lake patrol.

*OLA sent an editorial to the local newspapers requesting these agencies get together to resolve these inconsistencies. The health of the lake and the safety of the people must not be compromised.

*Patrol time on the lake must get to an average 11 hours per week for the OCSWCD to take ownership. Eleven hours per week was the average patrol time in 2002.

Emergency Numbers

Members expressed concern on contacts for emergency situations on the lake. The following information was verified with local law enforcement agencies:

- 911 – To be called in emergency situations to report fire, accident, or injury.
- 547-4273 – County Dispatch. The number is manned 24/7. They will determine who may be on patrol and who is to respond to a navigational law violation, breakdown, or fish and game violation.
- 561-7400 – Troop C State Police Barrack, Sidney. In the event that the County Dispatch does not pick up, this number is to be called. The State Police have a boat, which is moved between several locations.

Glimmerglass Queen (Dan Rosen, Bob Einreinhofer)

The Glimmerglass Queen is the new tour boat that operates out of the Lakefront Motel in Cooperstown. It is a square-nosed, 50-ft. vessel (barge-like) that holds 48 people. Numerous complaints have been reported by the sailing club, OLA members, and others, because of the large wake the boat creates. The wake is significantly greater than the one created by the Uncas which was a "V" hull. A report was made by someone injured while paddling her canoe by the shoreline.

*OLA wrote a letter to the owners of the tour boat expressing concern for the safety of small craft boaters and the effect of the wake on shoreline erosion and phosphorous introduction.

*Additional information is being obtained and a meeting scheduled with the owners of the tour boat.

Cooperstown Boat Inspection/ Wash (Carl Good reported by Ted Peters)

*All boats and trailers are inspected for exotic species at the Fair St. and Fish Rd. launch sites in Cooperstown.

*Inspectors were trained by the BFS on inspection protocol and identification of exotics.

*Anyone who fails the inspection and launches without power -washing, is subject to a \$500 Village fine.

*A \$10 launch fee is charged with a discount for frequent users. The power wash at the Linden Ave Garage is free.

*Inspectors are on duty from 5AM to 7PM, seven days a week, from May through Oct.

*351 boats have been inspected so far.

Springfield Boat Launch (Dan Rosen, Mary Clarke)

*Springfield has restricted launches to residents only. ID cards must be obtained from the Town Clerk.

*Signs have been posted at the launch sites by OLA on how to wash and inspect the boat and how to identify exotic species.

*A care taker is supposed to be at the launch site from 10AM to 10 PM however, there have been gaps in coverage.

*No boat or trailer inspection is done by the caretaker to check for exotics.

*A car wash to be located at the intersection of Rt. 80 and 20 in Springfield has been approved by the planning board. It will have three bays large enough to accommodate boats.

Land Usage (Doug Willies)

*The committee's mission is to insure that the four municipalities that encompass the lake and its watershed have zoning/ land use ordinances that are supportive of the lake management plan and that those ordinances are consistently enforced.

*Questions from the membership on the Brookfield development in Springfield were answered. OLA will be sending a letter to the Planning Board regarding our position on the proposed development.

*The proposed motel/hotel project is to have four buildings with a total of 24 units on a 2.5 acre lakefront parcel north of the Lake and Pines Motel.

*Enclosed is a copy of the letter sent to the Springfield Planning Board.

Sportsmen's Clubs/ Walleye Stocking (Paul Lord)

*OLA met with a number of sportsmen's clubs and maintains an ongoing dialog.

*An update was given on the status of the walleye stocking, their growth rate, and impact on the alewife population. The DEC net survey numbers and growth rates are comparable with the best walleye lakes in the state.

*The walleye improves the fishery and water clarity by decreasing the alewife population which feed on the large zooplankton that eat the algae.

*OLA contributed to the stocking program in 2002 and will contribute again in 2003.

Web Site (Paul Lord)

*The OLA website is www.OtsegoLakeAssociation.org

*Included in the website will be the Lake Management Plan, membership info, meetings, educational material, etc.

Signage/ Brochures (Paul Webber)

*Signage and brochures on navigational laws will be strategically located around the lake

*Zebra Mussel and other exotic species signage have been located at the Cooperstown and Springfield launch sites as well as some of the motels.

Law Enforcement Liaison (Bryant Kolner)

*A boater safety course was sponsored by OLA and AAA of Oneonta this past April.

*OLA intends to sponsor this course again in the future.

*Report given on patrol information and the lack of support from the county board on equipment, repairs and patrols.

*Details were given on revenue collected by the State and County that is not being used as intended.

*A citizens' boat watch is in the planning stages to supplement the patrols on the lake. The DEC has experience in this area and will assist in the training.

"Aquatic Nuisance Species: Much Bigger than Zebra Mussels" Dr. Bill Harman, Professor and Director of the BFS.

*An excellent presentation on exotic species included exotics already in the lake and those that deserve our concern to prevent introduction.

*Handouts were distributed on how to identify these exotics, their history, impacts, and control.

Septic Systems Presentation (Win McIntyre, OLA Technical Advisor; Ted Peters, Chair, WSC, Matt Albright, Asst. Director, BFS)

*An informative presentation was given on the history and authority, the proposed new regulations and inspection procedures for a septic system management program, and the funding and timing for program implementation.

*Phosphorous problems due to lake side septic systems were discussed in detail along with the studies conducted by the BFS and the commercial systems that are available to remove phosphorous.

*Enclosed is an outline of the state grant and work plan for septic inspections.

DEC Presentation (Officer Harrington)

Officer Harrington reviewed the role of the DEC in patrolling the waters of Otsego County. Information was shared on equipment, patrol time, and available resources.

OLA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Members requested information on contacts to register their concerns and support for what the Association is attempting to accomplish. Attached is a list of the County and local municipal board members. It is recommended that several board members be contacted in the event that the supervisor or chairperson chooses not to share the complaints with other members of the board. Please send a copy of your letter for our records to Otsego Lake Association, P.O. Box 13, Springfield Center, NY 13468.

- *County Board and Public Safety Committee - contact regarding the Sheriff's Patrol of the lake
- *Springfield Town Board - contact regarding the need for better coverage and inspection at the Springfield launch.
- *Springfield Planning Board – contact regarding the Brookfield development.

Educational Material

If you were unable to attend the annual meeting and would like a copy of the material that was handed out on septic systems, exotic species, and navigational laws, contact Dan Rosen at 547-2016.

Membership

If you require information on dues or membership, contact Bobbie Reed at 547-9773.

Closing

Gretchen Sorin, Director, SUNY Oneonta Graduate Studies Program, was thanked for allowing us to use their conference room for the Annual Meeting. Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Submitted: *Bob Einreinhofer, President*