

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, August 19, 2014 at Camp Minnetoska

The Otsego Lake Association 2014 Annual Meeting was called to order by President, Mickie Richtsmeier. Mickie welcomed all in attendance and introduced the Board of Directors.

Treasurer's Report - Carl Good gave the report for David Sanford. The report was accepted and seconded.

Election of President, Vice President & 2 Directors

Mickie presented the following nominations for the slate of officers:

Nominated: President - Mickie Richtsmeier.

Vice President – Bob Sutherland

Director (Otsego) - Paul Lord

Director (Middlefield) - Mike Richtsmeier.

Scottie Baker made a motion to cast ballots as read. It was seconded and passed.

Silent Auction, Merchandise and Website.

Mike Richtsmeier – Made an announcement about this year's silent auction. Numerous great items were donated.

Scottie Baker – Talked about the wonderful merchandise we have and some of the new items available.

Timothy Pokorny – Announced that we have a brand new website as of March 1st. He is trying to keep it updated. OLA is trying to send newsletters and announcements through email. Scottie mentioned OLA will be having website only contests so keep checking the website for those.

Lake Citizen Award 2014.

Mickie announced this year's Lake Citizen Award goes to the Village of Cooperstown for the support & maintenance of the lakefront buffer strip,

installation of the storm water sediment traps on lower Pioneer St., storm water runoff sidewalks on Main St., boat inspection station, boat wash facility and working with NYSDOT to encourage a safer herbicide along Route 80. Mayor Katz accepted the award and thanked stated it was because of grass roots efforts, residents and local efforts. We can thank DOT and the watershed committee especially Dr. James LaCava for the safer herbicide treatments along Route 80. DOT very mindful in this case and they halted the spraying one year and then changed the herbicide to a less harmful organic one!!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Paul talked about how we must controls on the spread of water, mud and plants from one waterbody to another. OLA and OCCA haven't made much progress with the county to put transport regulations together. However, NYSDEC has put regulations in place that prohibit the transport of water, mud and plants to and from NYSDEC launch sites. NYSDEC has been working on a statewide transport law. Enforcement may be an issue. We hope this will slow the spread of AIS.

Town of Springfield

Bob Sutherland spoke about how the town adopted no-wake policy with a sunset clause.

Route 80 Project – Update on where things stand.

Caroline Sever spoke about the project. NYSDOT is looking to make major repairs to sections of Route 80 along West Lake Road. NYSDOT are claiming they own a number of properties along the road and will be tearing them down without reimbursement. Caroline stated this affects the lake not just the people losing their properties. In the meantime this impacts the upkeep of camps and neighbors who are not allowed to upgrade their septic systems. A meeting will be held at the Otesaga Hotel on Friday August 15th 6pm-8pm.

Betty Can Heusen spoke about how NYSDOT has been making ineffective repairs at numerous locations along Route 80. She asked everyone to take a look at their presentation and pictures of current condition of Route 80. She stated

“DOT wants to clear cut plants.....and they don't have the money to plant the reconstructions they've already done. They said that the clear-cutting would be

good for tourism....” The homeowners are asking NYSDOT for a comprehensive plan and addressing problems of lake health and speeding issues.

Question from the audience: weight load on that road.....milk trucks, tractor trailers – “DOT says it’s a law and they can’t do anything to that.”

Mickie stated she had written a letter to the NYSDOT to suggest sustainable options!!

Oral history and images of Boats on Otsego Lake.

Patty Grady – chairperson for the event introduced Will Walker and Cindy Faulk from the Cooperstown graduate program (CGP). It was stated that CGP has partnership with NYSHA it’s a 2yrs master’s degree from SUNY Oneonta.

CGP students collect oral folklore and stories from the past 50 years. Liz Condon here to scan any photo of people’s boats. Cindy and Will began talking about and playing oral stories of Otsego Lake and its boats. The audience was asked to follow along on the transcripts provided. A number of interesting stories were presented to the audience.

Chance to ask questions about the lake – ask our biologists!

Paul Lord stated the biggest threat to Otsego Lake is AIS. There are over 200 species in the great lakes that could be on their way to Otsego Lake. Currently the worse threats are Hydrilla, Northern Snakehead and Spiny Water Fleas.

Take-away message – Any plant materials, water, and mud should not be moved!!!

What happened to all the alewives?

They disappeared most likely due to the introduction of Zebra mussels and increase in predator fish. The hope is without the Alewives the Otsego Bass can make a comeback! The fishery will rebound but not produce the numbers of fish it did during the Alewife years....

How deep do zebra mussels go?

Paul stated he found zebra mussels down to 98 feet.

A couple of other comments & questions were asked.

The meeting was adjourned before 12:00pm.