

**Otsego Lake Association
Board of Directors Meeting #7, January 15, 2004
Cooperstown Trustee Room**

Attendees: Bob Einreinhofer, President; Dan Rosen, Mary Clarke, Paul Lord, Scottie Baker, Carl Good, Directors; Win McIntyre, Technical Advisor. Absent: Chuck Hage, Burr Southworth, Paul Webber.

Bob Einreinhofer called the meeting to order at 7 PM and proceeded with the agenda overview.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Clark. Treasurer and Springfield Director provided the 2003 yearend Treasurer's Report.

*Balance on hand 12/31/03: \$5,767.37

*Revenue in 2003 was generated by membership dues, \$7,868.65 and merchandise sales. \$1,001.

*Expenses in 2003 were \$5,566.26. An itemized list was distributed.

*Expenditures identified thus far for 2004 will be for the following:

- 1) Membership Drive, approximately \$1,200.
- 2) NYSFOLA Membership, \$150
- 3) Educational Material, approximately \$2,000.
- 4) Website Fee, \$45.
- 5) Biological Field Station Research, \$1,000.
- 6) No-Wake Zone Buoys, \$1,000.
- 7) Stationery/Postage, approximately \$1,000.
- 8) Sediment Loading Reduction Program, approximately \$3,000.
- 9) Potential Boat Inspection Contribution to Cooperstown, \$500.

Membership

Mary Clarke reported the following membership numbers for 2003: Family- 72 (144 individuals); Business – 9; Individual – 49; Endowment – 28 (56 individuals) for a total of 258 members.

Personal notes were sent to endowments expressing appreciation of their support.

Education / Public Relations

Dan reported that we will run approximately twelve educational articles in the local papers and on our website commencing in May. We will also continue with the Penny Saver one-liners. Scottie supplied Dan with a list of members who wish to write educational articles.

Action: Dan and Win to have a list of the articles and authors available for discussion at the 4/1 BoD meeting.

Action: Paul Lord will develop a recognizable OLA icon for the newspaper bylines.

Membership Drive

Scottie updated the list and contacted members who would like to assist with the membership drive. Dan drafted a new membership application to clarify mailing address and residency.

Action: Dan to modify application to eliminate confusion between Cooperstown and Otsego.

Action: Dan to procure from the County the names and addresses of people residing within the watershed.

Action: Paul Lord to develop membership database.

Action: Membership Committee to mail applications at the beginning of April.

Action: Carl to contact Sailing Club, Country Club, and the Village to get names and addresses of members and boat slip users.

No-Wake Zone Buoys

Win issued a detailed report on the status of the buoys. OLA has successfully solicited the County to fund the Sheriff's Patrol in 2004. Bob also contacted the DEC and obtained their support. DEC has mailed a letter to the Soil and Water Commission confirming the patrols. Deployment of the buoys by the Dive Team will commence right after ice-out.

Newspaper articles and flyers will be issued to insure people who live on the lake, day-launchers, and motel guests are aware of the No-Wake Zone law. OLA unanimously approved \$1000 be donated to assist with the purchase of additional buoys. Money generated by the *Swim the Lake Fundraiser* will be used to purchase buoys. The Sailing Club has also committed funds for the purchase of a buoy.

Action: Bob to contact the Sheriff to forward a notarized letter of lake patrol support to the Soil and Water Commission.

Action: Chuck to contact the Country Club, Carl to contact the Glimmerglass Condo Association, Bob to contact businesses and other organizations for their financial support in purchasing additional buoys.

Action: Win and Paul Lord to determine if we can utilize any of the used buoys from Saratoga Lake.

Action: Scottie to incorporate the buoy purchase into the *Swim the Lake Fundraiser* promotional materials.

Action: Dan to prepare newspaper articles and flyers on the buoys and No Wake Zone.

Acknowledgements will also be included for individual contributors, the County, Soil and Water Commission, DEC, and the Dive Team for their support.

Action: Paul Lord to advise if the Town of Otsego will support the \$200 annual buoy maintenance fee.

Cooperstown Launch

Carl Good, Cooperstown Director and member of the Village Zebra Mussel Committee, distributed a detailed report on the 2003 boat inspections.

*Inspectors manned the two launches from 5/10/03 to 11/2/03.

*1635 boats and trailers were inspected.

*2/3 of the launches were during June, July, and August; just fewer than 50% were on weekends.

*Boaters overwhelmingly agreed to boat and trailers inspections and the Clorox spray of lines and bilges.

*Several boats and trailers required power washing before launching.

*No zebra mussels were found in the lake (BFS monitoring) or on boats pulled at end of season.

Action: Carl to insure new inspectors are trained by the BFS personnel before the season starts.

Action: Bob to contact Mike Moffat (NYS Park Commission member) regarding the use of the second power-washer at Canadarago Lake.

Springfield Launch

The Springfield launch, with its lack of inspections and inadequate coverage, remains an area of risk for the introduction of exotics.

Action: Dan and Mary to finalize a proposal for the town regarding boat and trailer inspections and a sticker system for resident's boats and trailers. The Sheriff's Department has agreed to assist with enforcement.

Action: Dan and Mary to solicit support of other Springfield residents to obtain Town Board approval of their proposal.

Action: Carl and Dan to contact the owner of the new car wash on Rt. 20 (includes boat wash capabilities) to allow us to install a boat wash sign and instructions at the site.

Membership/ Fundraiser

Scottie presented her report on merchandise we might consider selling. The Board agreed to continue the sale of OLA tee shirts and to add a denim shirt with an embroidered logo. Scottie feels we should consider an OLA pin in the future.

Action: Mary and Scottie to compare costs of denim shirts and finalize for the 4/1/04 BoD meeting.

Action: Paul Lord to include merchandise on our website.

Action: Mary to inventory and reorder tee shirt sizes we are low on.

Steve O'Neill, a very supportive OLA member from Springfield, will attempt to swim the lake in August as a fund-raiser toward the purchase of buoys. People who wish to participate in the fund-raiser will pledge "X" dollars for every mile Steve swims.

Action: Scottie to coordinate the fund-raiser with input from the BoD and Steve. Will discuss at 4/1 BoD meeting.

Action: Dan to handle press release.

Land Usage / Brookfield

Land usage in the watershed is an area we continue to focus on to protect the health of the lake. Our Land Use Committee report, based on the regulations of the four municipalities that surround the lake, will be used as a guide as we go forward.

We are currently part of a consortium, including Advocates for Springfield and several other organizations, that is taking a position on the Brookfield Development in Springfield. We contend that this four building, 23 unit resort, with a lake side recreation pavilion, is too dense and is not in compliance with Springfield's Local Law #3. Numerous letters have been written and a petition submitted requesting a "Positive Declaration" under SEQRA from the Springfield Planning Board. Our concern is the density and the precedent that will be established for other small parcels with lake frontage. Our

interpretation and that of others regarding LL#3 limits the density on this site to five units. The developer's interpretation and that of some of the Planning Board members is that there is no density limit under the law.

Action: Bob to attend February Planning Board meeting and continue to keep the BoD informed.

Signage

Carl agreed to take over signage so Paul Webber can devote his time to overseeing OLA's Sediment Loading Reduction Proposal.

Action: Carl to have the two lakeside signs reduced to one by incorporating NWZ restrictions with the Lake Laws.

Action: Carl to modify sign to state that everyone, regardless of age, must be certified to operate a jet ski.

Action: Carl and Dan to coordinate signage at the Rt. 20 Car and Boat Wash.

Action: Paul Webber to modify brochures with the new jet ski regulations and to include Mary's name and address for mailing membership dues. Insure sufficient brochures are available for the 2004 season.

Website

Paul Lord is now able to manage the website from his home computer. The Board authorized \$45 for website renewal.

Action: Paul to continue to update website with educational articles, meeting minutes, merchandise, etc.

Action: Mary to forward a check to Paul for website renewal.

Walleye / Lake Trout

Lou Hager is matching the 40,000 walleye fingerlings the DEC is contributing. This gives the 80,000 needed, so an OLA contribution is not required.

The BFS requested OLA support for important research on the one native and two non-native lake trout strains present in Otsego Lake. The lake trout (strain?) are reproducing. OLA forwarded a check for \$1000 to the Field Station for this research program.

Action: Bob to invite Dr. Harman to speak about the program at the Annual Meeting.

Action: Paul Lord to draft OLA thank you letter to the sportsmen's clubs.

Watershed Supervisory Committee

The NYS Department of Health has approved the new regulations and inspection procedures for septic systems within 500 feet of Otsego Lake and 100 feet of the Lake's tributary streams. Regulations are being reviewed by the Village attorney with the intent to have the Village Trustees enact the regulations as local law. This provides the legal authority to inspect the systems on a regular basis. The three towns surrounding the lake will be sent copies of the regulations.

Win McIntyre presented a comprehensive report on planned activities. Win, OLA Technical Advisor on the Lake Management Plan and OLA representative on the Watershed Supervisory Committee was recently re-appointed by the Committee to be the Watershed Manager.

The 2004 plan includes (1) education of the homeowner and general public on the need for inspections, (2) conducting an inventory of all systems, (3) training of inspectors. System inspections will begin in 2005 with first round of inspections to take five years. (500 systems at 100 systems per year)

Action: Win to reinforce OLA position to the WSC that we stand ready to supply volunteers to support their efforts with surveys, education, etc.

Action: Win to contact other committee members for a presentation of the plan at our Annual Meeting.

Sediment Loading

A report was prepared by Paul Webber and others regarding OLA's plan to address the sediment loading problem in Otsego Lake. Data gathered by the BFS shows that 19,800,000 pounds or 9,900 tons of sediment is deposited into Otsego Lake each year. The amount of sediment exiting the lake annually is 1,201,000lbs or 600.6 tons. The sediment remaining in the lake is significant and must be reduced.

Additional input is required from the Soil and Water group, the BFS, and others to finalize the plan. The plan as it stands calls for aerial photography of the lake after a major rain event to document the sediment plume in the lake coming from the tributary streams. Education of people living in the watershed will be critical to the success of the program.

Action: Paul Webber and Win to finalize the plan for presentation at the 4/1 BoD meeting.

Director Status / 2004 Elections

The terms of four Directors will finish in 2004, the terms of the other four will finish in 2005. Mary Clarke, Springfield Director, Carl Good, Cooperstown, and Paul Lord, Otsego, have stated their intentions to run for re-election in 2004. Burr Southworth, Middlefield Director will not seek re-election in 2004. Doug Willies, Middlefield Director, submitted his letter of resignation this January. Paul Webber, who has worked long and hard since our Association was formed, was unanimously elected by the Board to fill the vacancy created by the departure of Doug. Paul will have to be approved by a majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting. If elected, he will serve for the balance of Doug's term which expires in 2005.

The president of OLA is elected each year by a majority vote of the membership present at the Annual Meeting. Bob Einreinhofer stated that he will not seek re-election.

A nominating committee consisting of Bob Einreinhofer and Mary Clarke, was formed to develop guidelines for filling future vacancies. They will create a list of possible candidates.

Action: Bob and Mary to update BoD at the 4/1 meeting.

Action: Bob to insure the ballots are prepared and the protocol set for the Annual Meeting.

Newsletter Committee

A newsletter or other vehicle is needed to share information, educational materials, events, etc. with the membership.

Action: Dan and Paul Lord to present their proposal at the 4/1 BoD meeting.

Drop a Brick Proposal

Dropping a brick off a dock or float and periodically checking it for any attached marine life, especially exotic species was recommended by the BFS.

Action: Paul Lord to contact Bill Harman for more specific guidelines for presentation at the Annual meeting.

Lake Friendly Practices

Information on preferred lakeside and tributary-side plantings and information on the use of fertilizers, pesticides, household chemicals, etc. is being assembled. This info will be shared with our membership and hopefully posted at local nurseries and garden centers.

Action: Chuck to review proposal at 4/1 BoD meeting.

Annual Meeting

The OLA membership meetings will always be the 3rd Saturday in June and the 3rd Saturday in August. This year the dates are 6/19 and 8/21. The 6/19 meeting will be held in the main conference room at the Biological Field Station from 8:30 to 10:00 AM.

A draft agenda was prepared by Bob. All agreed that the septic system update would be included.

Action: Bob to prepare the final review and time allotments for the 4/1 meeting and finalize meeting logistics.

Farmers Museum Exhibit

NYSHA is planning an exhibit, "Otsego Lake: Past and Present", to be held at the Farmers Museum. Scottie (representing OLA) attended a meeting, along with representatives from other conservation groups, with Paul Drambrosio, Chief Curator. Under discussion is the role OLA may take in the exhibit.

Action: Scottie to advise the Board at our 4/1 meeting regarding the exhibit developments.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00PM. The next meeting will be 4/1/04 at 7PM in the Town of Otsego Board Room. -Minutes submitted by Scottie Baker; edited and approved by Bob Einreinhofer.