

**Otsego Lake Organization
Board of Directors' Meeting
February 3, 2007**

Board Members in Attendance: Scottie Baker, Wayne Bunn, Mary Clarke, Carl Good, John Lambert, Paul Lord, Mickie Richtsmeier, David Sanford

Members Attending: Paul Zubritski and Rob Lee

The meeting was called to order by President, Paul Lord.

Treasurer's Report: Mary Clarke presented a complete financial report. Our balance on hand as of 10/13 was \$10,444.78. During the period of 10/13/06 to 12/31/06 disbursements were made for \$5332.20. These included \$25.20 to the Pennysaver, \$507 for stamps, \$1800 to Hanson Aggregate's and \$3000 set-up for the buffer strip project. Receipts totaled \$176 (\$150 from memberships and \$26 from sales). This left a balance on hand of \$5288.58 (12/31/06).

There were additional donations and membership dues received in January in the amount of \$385, bringing our balance to \$5673.58 (2/3/07). Mary also indicated that \$2983 (of the \$3000) has been spent on materials for the buffer strip. (The \$17 remaining will go toward hardware for this project.)

We were also updated about the financials regarding ongoing projects. As of 4/1/04, \$4000 was allocated for the Sediment Project, and \$1056.08 was spent that year. Later expenditures of \$741.54 (6/24/06), \$1529.52 (9/16/06), and \$1800 (12/30/06) were also cited. In regard to the aerial photography project, up to \$2000 had been initially allocated, and \$1500 was held in reserve for that project. Since the photography has not been completed because of weather complications, the board decided at its October meeting to use \$1000 of the reserved funds toward publishing "Smart Steps for Clean Water". (Total allocation for this project is \$3000, \$2000 plus the \$1000 previously noted from the photo reserve).

Our current checking balance is \$5673.58, of which \$4000 has been allocated, leaving \$1673.58.

The treasurer's report was accepted and a motion was made and unanimously passed that \$1127.14 be allocated to make up the difference for the sediment project.

Committee Reports:

Aerial photographs- Paul displayed photographs obtained from Tom Gergel. These display run-off in the Hyde Bay, Shadow Brook, and

Hayden Creek areas. We will add these to our display boards and use them in presentations.

Non-Profit Status Renewal - John Lambert reported that OLA's status was fine for the past year and that we have a 90 day grace period in which to renew for the upcoming year. John will resubmit our 1023 application and does not anticipate any difficulties.

OLA website - Burr Southworth has requested that we update the information available for our website which he maintains. Paul suggested that he and Mickie work on this based on the minutes and report back at our next meeting.

No Wake Zone Buoys - Paul reported that all the buoys are out and that the BFS has completely redone the scuba locker.

Boat Inspections - Carl reported that there had been 250 fewer launchings last season due to the weather. Plans are being made for this upcoming season, and Carl said that he is hopeful that OCCA will continue its \$10,000 grant to the Village for the boat wash.

Water Quality - Carl reports that a major concern is VHS (viral hemorrhagic septicemia) which results in huge fish kills in infected areas. VHS is rampant in the Northwestern US and is now in the Northeast. The St. Lawrence and Lakes Erie and Ontario have been affected, as has Conesus Lake. To try to stem the spread of VHS the federal government has ordered no transference of live fish. The DEC has become involved as well. Currently no more than 100 bait fish can be transported. This will be another area where the boat inspectors will be able to help. It was suggested that the DEC might do a presentation about VHS for Springfield, since the boat launch there has no inspectors.

Merchandise - Scottie reminded us that this is our slow time of the year. She is continuing to seek out opportunities to sell our wares, but didn't think that Winter Carnival presented a good venue. The Earth Festival will be held on May 5 from 11-4. Scottie and Mickie will represent OLA as they did last year. Scottie also remarked that she thought we should include a picture of our denim shirt on the website.

Law Enforcement - David reported that we have a new sheriff. He and John will update him about OLA. Wayne raised his concern about speeding along the lake on Rte 80. A discussion followed about whether OLA's mission allowed us to take on such issues, and how this could relate to the Lake Management Plan. In the end, after much input, the consensus was that it would be more productive if a group of concerned citizens, as opposed to OLA, took this up with the State Police.

Question about Recent Repairs on Rte 80, Right of Ways, and Impact on Lake Shore - We are planning a general meeting in June to discuss related issues. In advance of this, Paul, John, David and Wayne

would like to sit down with DOT in Oneonta to talk about these concerns. Wayne will arrange this meeting.

Otsego Water Quality Coordinating Committee- Carl is forwarding the minutes to OLA BOD. There are no major concerns other than VHS at this time.

Otsego 2000 - Scottie updated us on progress regarding the decision for OLA and Otsego 2000 to work on a demonstration and education project about sediment and poor ditching practices. Martha Frey, Otsego 2000's executive director, wants to see a project with a farther reaching scope than our rip-rap initiative. She would also like to involve OCCA and the Otsego Land Trust. While this is being discussed, OLA will continue with the rip-rap. In addition the county is being funded to hydro-seed ditches.

Lake Front Park Buffer Strip - The current plan for the boardwalk calls for 12 - 8ft sections. We've purchased enough materials for 9 sections. The plan to plant under the boardwalk has been altered, and we now will use gravel. This also means that we can use the full width of the slat (rather than cutting them into narrower sections to allow light to infiltrate). This means the boardwalk will be easier to construct and will also require less hardware. In order for the BOCES Building Trades students to begin work, approximately \$325 worth of hardware must be purchased. The BOCES Innovative Agriculture Program is also working with the Lake and Valley Garden Club to choose and start plantings in the greenhouse. Carl and Dave will meet with Steve Zukedis at BOCES to finalize plans re the boardwalk. A motion was made and unanimously passed to allocate \$325 for hardware for the project.

Mud Plume Photography - Wayne has access to some potential photographs of the northeast corner of the lake. Wayne and Paul will contact Brian Kolner regarding this.

Art Show - David reported that OLA and the Cooperstown Art Association will jointly sponsor a show highlighting miniature Otsego lakescapes in May at the Art Association Gallery in the Village Library Building. Dave and Katie have also graciously offered to provide refreshments.

Newsletter - Paul will continue to explore editor possibilities. Feedback was that the newsletter is missed.

Municipality Coordination Regarding Ditching and Seeding - Scottie reported that she has connected with Sean Mulligan who is the new highway supervisor for the Town of Otsego. Paul and David will coordinate dates to meet with the highway supervisors and town supervisors. Paul will also send an email to Scott Fickbohm regarding the success of the hydroseeding on the East Lake Road.

Fundraising Thank Yous - Paul has caught up with these.

Lake Front Fundraising- Paul and Carl have well prepared presentations. Paul has asked for any suggestions of groups to approach. Carl reports that we are on the agenda for a Pancake Breakfast on April 22 at the Cooperstown Fire House. Board members are asked to help serve and members will be emailed.

Springfield Landing Buffer Strip- OLA's offer to help with installing rip-rap at the Public Landing was rejected, so the initiative to do a buffer strip in Springfield was tabled.

Smart Steps Booklet- Paul, Scottie, and Mickie have reworked the Cayuga Lake booklet. Eric Miller from OCCA has also been very involved in the project. We're at the point of being ready to turn over our revised copy. Paul distributed print-outs of the changes for the board to examine and give feed-back. He also reported that OCCA is seeking funding for a majority of this project. We are enclosing a membership envelope in the publication which will still probably bring in our expenditures close to the \$1500 mark. A motion was made and unanimously passed to authorize the subcommittee to coordinate and make expenditures not to exceed \$1500 to publish the Smart Steps Booklet. Mary also suggested that a thank you be written to Trade Winds who searched out and provided the high resolution logo for the Smart Steps booklet. Mary will provide contact information to Paul.

Lake Management Plan - Matt Albright is waiting for input to put together a 10 year update. He has said that he will have it together by the February Water Quality Meeting.

June Membership Meeting- Wayne spoke with Jerry Murello, Assistant Otsego County Resident Engineer for DOT, about the agenda for the meeting. Jerry will talk to Mike Adams who is the Resident Engineer out of the Oneonta office. Wayne will also contact the Middlefield Highway Super.

Rip-Rap- This has been purchased, but not delivered. Paul reported that the BFS has also asked about rip-rap for the Thayer ditches. This is on hold for present. Hydro-seeding may serve the purpose.

Fun Membership Activities - Wayne suggested that OLA needs to get people together for fun events and to promote OLA. He said many other lake associations support activities such as boat parades, picnics, rings of fire, etc. The idea of a youth fishing derby seemed attractive to many Board Members. A suggestion was made to use the Pavilion at Three Mile Point to combine a picnic, youth event, and August meeting. The BOD was asked to think about this, solicit input, and be ready to discuss ideas at our meeting in April.

Watershed Sediments Survey Intern - Paul had talked with Tom Horvath about an intern. He has lined up a possible intern for 10 weeks, but a \$2500 stipend would be required. The BOD decided to leave this possibility until April to see what our finances would permit.

BFS Request- The BFS has asked OLA for \$500 for a depth sounder. The Board agreed that at present we have no money to fund this request.

Landscaping Book Donation- The Board agreed to donate two copies of Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality to the Otsego Area Occupational Center's Innovative Agriculture Program to assist in their planning of the buffer strip.

Upcoming Calendar

April 21 - Board Meeting - Thayer Farm or BFS Main Lab

April 22 - Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser - Cooperstown Fire Hall

June 16 - Annual Meeting - Thayer Farm

August 18 - Informational Meeting - TBA

The Meeting was adjourned to work on membership mailings.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mickie Richtsmeier