

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Jim Howarth's House – Cooperstown

Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 3:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Sarah Coney (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special "Thanks" to Jim for hosting the meeting outside at his house – greatly appreciated!

Absent: William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), John May (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster),

Guests: None

Note: M MSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING (Started at 3:10 PM)

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty)

Bank Balance in Checking Account (09/12/2020) = \$9,934.01

Status of 501(c)(3): Still pending by IRS; hoping to have approval by the end of the year; Betty, Jim, Mickie, and Wayne (with input from past Presidents Paul and David as needed) will work as a committee on this issue; Betty needs a copy of past paperwork and, especially, the original application for exempt status in order to file a new IRS Form 1023EZ for reinstatement of exemption.

Reminder: Filing of Form 990 is due by April 15th each year.

Charity Navigator: Donations intended for OLA (NY) may still be going to OLA in Michigan.

- ##### 2. Membership Report (Betty) – There are 148 addresses of historic OLA members currently on our mailing list but, as of the virtual membership gathering on August 8th, only 45 are paid up (\$5,385); 15 of those 45 are new memberships in 2020 (\$1,720) which offsets the cost of the expanded newsletter mailing list to recruit new members; since the virtual membership gathering, there were 4 new memberships and 7 renewals; two generous donations were also received. We will keep expanded mailing list for future newsletters (good return value); need appeal for paid memberships in next newsletter. Betty suggested that the OLA membership drive cards given out at the Cooperstown boat launch should also be used more broadly for recruitment of members at events where we set up such as Earth Day. The idea of a member discount for purchase of merchandise was discussed (i.e. perhaps raise the price for non-members but charge members the prices now in effect). We need to assemble past OLA mailing lists to generate a new mailing list (Paul, David, Mickie, and Wayne to research their files).

NORMAL ITEMS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys, Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Installation of NWZ buoys was delayed this year due to Covid-19 restrictions imposed by SUNY Oneonta; removal of NWZ buoys in the fall (planned for weekend of Oct. 16 – 18) will use a team approach with three shifts (again due to Covid-19 restrictions). Removal of the CLMB is scheduled for weekend of December 5 -6. Volunteers are always welcome.
4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – It was hoped that the boat inspections would continue until at least Columbus Day weekend but the NYSDEC contract, which pays for the inspections, will be without funding as of September 30th. There were no problems in hiring or retaining boat inspection stewards at the Cooperstown launch this summer because there was a lack of other summer jobs due to the Covid-19 restrictions and shut downs of various local businesses. Springfield ended the season with only one student boat inspection steward this summer; Springfield now prefers using students.
5. Merchandise (Scottie) - Need more gray long sleeve tee shirts and other items in preparation for Christmas sales after fall newsletter goes out. Sun visors might be a new item to consider. **MMS**P to spend up to \$500 for various merchandise items - Scottie will order. [Note: **MMS**P for an additional \$250 for merchandise was approved on Sept. 25th via e-mail voting.]
6. Newsletter (Scottie) - Susan O’Handley will again coordinate, print, and mail the fall 2020 newsletter - format will be the same as spring newsletter with actual mailing planned for November 10th. Theme of newsletter will be “What’s It Worth To You”. All draft articles and photos should be submitted to Scottie and Susan by October 13th. Potential articles include: Co-Presidents’ message (Jim & David), merchandise for sale (Scottie), annual gathering (Mickie & Gary), boat parade (Wayne), “wood and water” - classic and wooden boats (Scottie), new hybrid pondweed and weed beds in lake (Paul), quagga mussels (Paul), Town of Otsego Shoreline Protection Area (Debbie), healthy lake related activities (Board members), lake clean up day (Debbie), CLMB update (Kiyoko), Cooperstown’s Otsego Lake book of 1890 (Martin), funny stories about the lake (Board members), what we could do if we had more money (Board members), photographs, application for membership, and fun facts (fillers) about the lake. Goal is to expand the mailing list to include other groups. The fall newsletter will be sent via e-mail and hard copy. A draft copy of the newsletter will be sent to all BOD members for review and comments.
7. Website (Tim) - Website is up to date; most inquiries are in regard to annual gathering, boat parade, and newsletter; good feedback on UTube video of August virtual meeting.
8. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members.
9. Coordination with Other Organizations - This is an on-going process with OCCA, Otsego 2000, and Otsego Land Trust as needed.
10. Boat Parade (Wayne) - OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade was held on Saturday, July 4th at 3:00 PM starting at Three Mile Point and ending at Lakefront Park; we had about 45 to 50 boats in the parade and many more just observing from the lake; due to the Covid-19 restrictions, no candy or prizes were given out; the weather was nearly perfect plus no other major events or activities were taking place that day.
11. Annual Membership Gathering (Gary & Mickie) - The annual membership gathering (formerly called annual membership meeting) was a virtual meeting this year held on Saturday, August 8th via Zoom. Items included the Co-Presidents report, a Treasurer’s report, a membership report, the Lake Citizen Award posthumously to Dr. Ted Peters, scientific updates by SUNY Oneonta students and staff, and roll over of officers; see separate

minutes of this gathering for more details. Mickie will re-connect with the Otsego Sailing Club for use of their pavilion for our annual gathering in 2021.

12. NYSFOLA - The 2020 annual conference, scheduled for May 1st and 2nd in Lake George, was canceled due to the Covid-19 virus; no word yet on whether the newsletter contest was canceled.
13. Lake Clean Up Day (Debbie) – Debbie would like to re-establish the Lake Clean Up Day to collect debris, old dock parts, metal, etc. from camps around the lake; any potential date has been postponed until summer of 2021 due to the Covid-19 virus.

OLD BUSINESS

14. E-Mail Motions by OLA Board - The Board still needs to draft a change to the OLA by-laws to allow passing motions via e-mails. Paul and Mickie have presented preliminary thoughts and will coordinate the change at a future Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

15. Cooper's Hybrid Pondweed (Paul) - The new weed was first noticed in 2017 just south of Aalsmeer Motel & Cottages, but is now abundant in the lake, has been tentatively named Cooper's Hybrid Pondweed; it appears to be a hybrid weed between Clasp Leaved Pondweed and Curly Leaved Pondweed growing in water depths from 4 feet to 9 feet; regenerative growth starts immediately after ice-out and continues until October; spreads by rhizomes (horizontal underground stems with lateral shoots); plants are now dying off at the bottom; a DNA sample has been collected this summer and sent to a laboratory in Europe for analysis; Mary Keefe, a just graduated SUNY Oneonta student, has been working on this project under a special contract to identify growth patterns in specific areas the lake.
16. Frogbit (Paul) - This new aquatic invasive species has been discovered in Clarke Pond at the north end of the lake; OCCA has coordinated physical removal of this plant using volunteers; the best method is to use a potato hook (\$30) and a shell fish basket (\$20); **MMSP** for \$100 to purchase two sets of these tools.
17. Quagga Mussels (Paul) - Paul and Sarah discovered one quagga mussel near Sunken Island in August during a random sampling of the lake bottom; the quagga mussels don't need a rocky bottom, like the zebra mussels, and can live in much deeper waters; they will blanket the lake bottom and filter the water taking food normally needed by various species of fish; future algae blooms may appear as a result; the lake clarity was about 4 to 6 feet prior to the zebra mussels but is now about 20 feet with one day in August at 30 feet; fish may die off; probably brought in on a boat or in a bait bucket; they are in the Finger Lakes; there is no good solution right now.
18. Special E-Mailed Newsletter (Debbie) - Ginny Hastings, an OLA member on the lake, has offered to prepare a brief newsletter to be sent via e-mail on perhaps a monthly or semi-monthly basis to keep OLA in front of its members and offer updated information; this is not to replace our normal twice a year full blown newsletter; Debbie will have Ginny prepare a proposal and then submit it to the Board members for review and comment.
19. John May is Leaving – John May, an OLA Board member from Middlefield, will be moving to Vermont by year end and, therefore, will be resigning from the OLA Board; a replacement from the Town of Middlefield will be needed.

20. Town of Otsego Updated Shoreline Protection Area (Debbie) – The Town Board of the Town of Otsego has updated its Land Use Law regarding Section 4.04 – Otsego and Canadarago Lake Shoreline Protection Area; OLA can only recommend to new property owners on the lake that such laws exist.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

21. Date for Next Board Meeting – The date, time, and location of the next OLA Board meeting will be coordinated by Secretary Wayne Bunn due to the Co-Presidents being away during the winter months; normally the winter Board meeting is held in February.

ADJOURNMENT

22. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MMSP VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING - None

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Fall 2020

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Student Director: Sarah Coney

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Directors/Middlefield: John May and Peter Regan

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Bob Sutherland

ATTACHMENTS: None

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