

# OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

## FINAL MINUTES

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

**BFS Thayer's Boathouse**

**Saturday, October 2, 2021 at 10:00 AM**

#### ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Sarah Coney (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special "Thanks" to Kiyoko, Paul, and Sarah for setting up and hosting the meeting – greatly appreciated!

Absent: David Sanford (Co-President), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Ginny Hastings (Winter Update).

Guests: None

**Note:** **MMSP** = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

#### OPENING (Started at 10:10 AM)

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty) - Current Balance in Checking Account = \$14,803 (was \$13,854 at Annual Gathering). The OLA commitment of \$1,000 for the Goodyear Swamp reconstruction may be due during 2022.
2. Membership Report (Betty) – Since the Annual Gathering, 11 members have paid their membership dues including 2 new members. Not having an in-person annual gathering has resulted in a large drop of membership renewals and/or new members joining. Discussion on membership drive; "Burma Shave" type signs, springtime mailing campaign, and signs at Cooperstown Lakefront Park and Springfield Landing were reviewed.
3. Tax-Exempt Status (Betty) – The tax-exempt status of OLA is currently up to date.

**Reminder:** Filing of Form 990 for IRS 501 (c) 3 is due by April 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

#### NORMAL ITEMS

4. No Wake Zone Buoys (NWZB), Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – The BFS barge, the "Anodontoides", is now out of service as of September 2021 due to age and structural failure of the pontoons. It has been estimated that the cost to replace the barge is about \$130,000 without a new motor (existing 90 HP motor is about 15 years old). It is 39.5 feet long (any boat over 40 feet long needs a license) and the "A" frame is the only original part still remaining (built about 1973). Maximum capacity is 30 high school students. Harvest Boats in NYS is a possible vendor for a new barge. OLA would like to help and will send a letter to SUNY Oneonta (draft by Paul, signed by Jim). The Clark Foundation is a possible source of grant funding. Planning for the fall "buoy fest" (to remove summer NWZB) will consider renting a barge from Leatherstocking Lake Services or Hascup & Hascup plus using the BFS fleet of boats. Discussion on the employees of Sam Smith's Boatyard not being up to

date on the NWZB and boating laws. OLA needs to educate them and provide them with educational posters. **MMSF** for \$1500 for the BFS Volunteer Dive Team to purchase supplies (chains, etc.) and equipment as needed.

5. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – A water chestnut infestation has been discovered in Belvedere Lake near Cherry Valley. It is about 4 acres in size and the plants are 7 to 8 feet deep. Also, a new aquatic invasive species called “Water Violet” has been discovered in New Hampshire.
6. Merchandise (Scottie) – All items in stock and OK at this point. Again, not having an in-person annual gathering has caused a large drop in sales.
7. Newsletter (Scottie) - Susan O’Handley will again coordinate, print, and mail the Fall 2021 newsletter - format will be basically the same as Spring 2021 newsletter with actual mailing planned for November. All draft articles and photos should be submitted to Scottie and Susan by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Theme for the newsletter to be determined. Potential articles include: Co-Presidents’ message (Jim & David), history of Cooperstown Lakefront buffer strip (Mickie), curly leaf pondweed (Sarah), merchandise for sale (Scottie), annual membership gathering (Mickie & Gary), boat parade (Wayne), CLMB update (Kiyoko), 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 2021 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.
8. Website (Tim) – Website is up to date; see Tim’s e-mail report dated September 29, 2021. Jim will thank Tim for his ongoing work.
9. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members.
10. Coordination with Other Organizations - This is an on-going process with OCCA, Otsego 2000, and Otsego Land Trust as needed.
11. Boat Parade (Wayne) - OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade was held on Sunday, July 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM starting at Three Mile Point. It was re-scheduled from Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> due to a predicted all day rain. We estimated that about 45 to 50 boats actually participated in the parade but many other boats observed along with numerous spectators on shore. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, no prizes were awarded or candy given out this year.
12. Annual Membership Gathering 2022 (Mickie & Gary) - The annual membership gathering (formerly called annual membership meeting) will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM. Planning committee will consist of Mickie, Gary, Doug, Scottie, and Bill. We are hoping for an in-person gathering with the Otsego Sailing Club as the first choice venue, the Glimmerglass Festival as the second choice venue, and the Cooperstown Country Club as the third choice venue. Main topic will be “History/Change of Otsego Lake” by Holly Waterfield of the BFS Main Lab. **MMSF** to donate an OLA apron and certificate for any OLA merchandise to Prof. Cindy Falk, plus a subscription to the OLA newsletter, in recognition of her past presentations at the annual membership gatherings.
13. NYSFOLA - The 2021 annual conference was a virtual event this year held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. Wayne will submit the Fall 2021 newsletter to NYSFOLA in February for entry in their 2022 annual newsletter contest – both in the hard copy category and in the digital category.

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 ITEMS**

15. Goodyear Swamp Sanctuary Reconstruction – Funding is in place, existing contract with OCCA (10 years ago) for repair of swamp and 3 trails, priority project for NYS, OLA funding will be held pending review of scope of project and start of construction, some concern expressed about liability of Glimmerglass Festival for parking and access to swamp via their property, swamp will probably remain closed in 2022.
16. Zoning and Construction Concerns (Debbie) – Discussion about approvals and recent construction of two camps (Stagliano and Jones) on the west side of the lake just north of Five Mile Point; Stagliano project was originally approved as a “storage/recreational facility with no kitchen or bathroom” but was actually constructed as a camp with a kitchen and full bathroom, a violation was issued by the Town of Otsego Zoning Enforcement Officer this summer with ongoing discussions by the Town Zoning Board of Appeals and Town Planning Board; Jones project was approved as a replacement of an existing camp within the same footprint but was actually constructed with an addition outside the original footprint, a stop work order was issued by the Town of Otsego Zoning Enforcement Officer this summer with ongoing discussions by the Town Planning Board. It was reported that there has been intermittent enforcement of the zoning laws over the past 25 years. OLA’s mission is to educate the lake residents on the various zoning laws but not take a position on a specific project. An article in the OLA newsletter about zoning laws and enforcement would be helpful. Debbie and Betty will send a letter to the Town of Otsego Supervisor with a copy to the Town Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Planning Board, and Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee.
17. Aalsmeer Motel and Cottages Boat Launch – Discussion on the number of boats that are launched at Aalsmeer each summer without inspection for aquatic invasive species, owner Peter Fry has attended CRISP training classes but apparently does not inspect the boats, send OLA newsletter to motels and Sam Smith’s Boatyard.

#### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

18. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting is scheduled for some time in February 2022 (specific date to be determined). At this time, it will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

19. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

#### **MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING**

**MMSP** on October 13, 2021 authorizing \$600 for the BFS Volunteer Dive Team to rent Hascup & Hascup’s barge for two days for use in the removal of the NWZB this fall.

**OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Fall 2021**

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Student Director: Sarah Coney

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Directors/Middlefield: Peter Regan, Doug Willies

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Ginny Hastings (Winter Update)

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

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