

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Sarah Coney (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special "Thanks" to Gary for setting up the Zoom meeting – greatly appreciated!

Absent: Scottie Baker (Vice-President), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Ginny Hastings (Winter Update Editor).

Guests: None

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING (Started at 10:00 AM)

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty)

Current Balance in Checking Account = \$10,120.03. Outstanding expenses are \$750 for merchandise and reimbursement of registration fees for Board members attending NYSFOLA annual conference. MMSP for \$75.00 for new checks.

2. Tax-Exempt Status (Betty) – The tax-exempt status of OLA is currently up to date although the IRS website may not show this until they update their records – may take up to 8 months. Reminder: Filing of Form 990 for IRS 501 (c) 3 is due by April 15th each year.

3. Membership Report (Betty) – Our membership list includes 161 addresses (individuals, families, and businesses). Of the 161 totals, 119 are currently paid up for the year. We will keep the expanded mailing list for future newsletters (good return value); need appeal for paid memberships in next newsletter.

NORMAL ITEMS

4. No Wake Zone Buoys, Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – The Cooperstown lakefront NWZB has been installed while the Springfield Landing NWZB will be installed next week. Installation of the remaining NWZBs is running late this year but they should all be in by June. There was major ice damage to the BFS barge this winter while docked at the BFS Main Lab. Also, significant damage to the dock system needs to be repaired. Kiyoko was able to obtain funding for a "new" 20 year old 4-stroke Yamaha 50 outboard motor and all weather steering cables for the large Jon boat. All boats now use the Honda gas tanks which are standard across the BFS fleet. All boats are now in the water. Bissell Point NWZB is missing – will cost about \$250 to replace. The volunteer dive team was active this winter with ice dives for training new divers. Volunteers are always welcome. The concept of "Adopt a Buoy" was discussed – i.e. individuals would buy and monitor a NWZB. Each NWZB would cost

about \$650 and the process is “daunting” according to Paul. The County Sheriff and near-by neighbors need to sign off on the location after the paper work goes through the State.

5. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – Inspections for 2021 should be about the same as 2020. Due to the Covid-19 virus, there is only a small pool of students living locally who might qualify as a CRISP AIS steward. A total of 26 stewards are needed and, right now, they are 9 short of that number. The Village has hired a single steward and he/she will start work on May 17th. The Town of Springfield has a new Supervisor (Galen Criqui) who is supportive of protecting Otsego Lake. Springfield Landing uses their life guards as boat inspection stewards as available and when needed but want CRISP AIS stewards on site managing the overall effort. They will start on Memorial Day weekend. Training consists of 6 hours in the classroom and 3 hours at the boathouse.
6. Merchandise (Scottie) – New merchandise has been ordered, usually good sales from newsletter.
7. Newsletter (Scottie) - Susan O’Handley will again coordinate, print, and mail the Spring 2021 newsletter - format will be basically the same as Fall 2020 newsletter with actual mailing planned for June 1st. Goal is to expand the mailing list to include other groups. The spring 2021 newsletter will be sent via e-mail and hard copy. About 400 to 500 names on mailing list. A draft copy of the newsletter will be sent to all BOD members for review and comments. See Item 13 below regarding OLA’s entry in the NYSFOLA newsletter contest.
8. Website (Tim) – Updates are posted as they occur. From May 11, 2020 to May 11, 2021, we had 1,213 users where 83.3% were from the USA, 90.8% were new users, and 9.2% were returning users. Typical spikes in users occurred around the annual membership gathering, boat parade, and newsletters. Less so around Christmas this year as opposed to previous years. Debbie normally takes care of Facebook but Tim does randomly post updates.
9. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members. According to Tim, there are 695 people who follow the Facebook page. Spikes in users similar to website.
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 will be held on Saturday, July 3rd at 3:00 PM forming off Three Mile Point and ending at the lakefront in Cooperstown. No prizes or candy will be given out again this year due to the Covid-19 virus. The theme this year will be “Here Comes The Sun”, a song by the Beatles. Advertising flyers will be distributed in and around Cooperstown plus a press release will be sent to The Freeman’s Journal and to The Daily Star/Cooperstown Crier. The Otsego County Sheriff and his marine unit will be invited to participate in the boat parade or just observe for safety violations. Tim reported that the advertising sandwich boards will be placed one week prior to the event: Rt. 28 just south of Cooperstown, intersection of Rt. 80 at Pierstown Rd., intersection of Rt. 80 at Rt. 20, and Rt. 80 at Three Mile Point.
12. Annual Membership Gathering (Mickie, Gary, & Bob) - The annual membership gathering (formerly called annual membership meeting) will be a virtual meeting via Zoom again this year. It will be held on Saturday, August 14th at 9:00 AM and will last no more than 90 minutes. We were originally scheduled to use the Otsego Sailing Club’s new pavilion, but their Board of Directors has decided to ban the use of the pavilion to all outside groups this year due to the ongoing Covid-19 virus. Other venues were considered but none could provide the space to maintain proper social distancing and other NYSDOH guidelines. There was a discussion about using the Glimmerglass State Park but there is a \$7+/- per car entrance fee. The main presentation will be “Steam Ships

on Otsego Lake” by Prof. Cindy Falk of the SUNY Oneonta Graduate Program followed by 3 scientific presentations by SUNY Oneonta biology students. An online auction will be held by using either Facebook, the chat button during the Zoom meeting, or listing the items with pricing on the OLA website - more research is needed to decide the best and most economical method. The Co-Presidents should note the passing of Bruno Talevi – a long-time OLA member, supporter, and annual gathering attendee. Tim reported that the advertising sandwich boards will be placed one week prior to the event: Rt. 28 just south of Cooperstown, intersection of Rt. 80 at Pierstown Rd., intersection of Rt. 80 at Rt. 20.

13. NYSFOLA - The 2021 annual conference was held as a virtual event this year on April 29th and 30th. Wayne submitted the spring 2020 and fall 2020 newsletters to NYSFOLA for entry in their annual newsletter contest – both in the hard copy category and in the digital category. OLA did not win the newsletter contest for 2021. The winners in the medium-size lake association category (where OLA is) included: 1st Place to “Loon Lake Link” (Loon Lake Association), 2nd Place: “Melody Lake News (Melody Lake Association), and 3rd Place: “The KLC News” (Kinderhook Lake Corporation). The overall aim of the contest is to recognize newsletters that are informative, interesting, and educational with pertinent news about the lake and its residents. Newsletters are judged on overall appearance, photographs and graphics, publication information, President’s message, committee reports, and articles or features by individual contributors.
14. Scientific Updates (Kiyoko) – The CLMB will be installed on May 16th by the BFS Volunteer Dive Team. The temperature monitors on the chain holding the winter spare buoys have been working properly all winter. The Zebra Mussel monitoring plates have been in place all winter and will be relocated in the spring. OCCA has been monitoring nitrogen in area streams and the Susquehanna River since this can cause HABs in the Chesapeake Bay. Al Keck has reported that the septic systems around the lake are 80% better than 20 years ago.
15. Cooper’s Hybrid Pondweed (Paul) – During the winter, this weed has essentially disappeared due to the Quagga Mussels attaching themselves to the weed with the weight forcing the weed to the bottom. Waterweed and Curly leaved pondweed are the only plants found in any quantity.
16. Quagga Mussels (Paul) – The population of this invasive species has “exploded” over the fall and winter. They live in deeper water than the Zebra Mussels and live on soft surfaces as compared to hard surfaces for the Zebra Mussels. This summer should see a new maximum density of Quagga Mussels. They may have a big impact on the lake this summer and may contribute to increased harmful algae blooms (HABs). However, they have no impact on the Lilly Pads. The Quagga Mussels start to breed when the temperature of the lake surface reaches 68 degrees F. There is nothing that we can do about them – as tough to remove as Zebra Mussels.
17. Winter Update Newsletter (Debbie) - Ginny Hastings, an OLA member on the lake, has offered to prepare a brief winter update newsletter to be sent via e-mail 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 draft copy of the winter update newsletter and then submit it to the Board members for review and comment. Jim welcomed Ginny to the OLA Board.
18. Membership Card (Scottie & Betty) – Scottie and Betty have drafted an OLA membership card that can be handed out at various locations or events (i.e., boat washing station, Earth Day, annual gathering, Sam Smith’s, etc.) to remind people to either renew their membership or join for the first time. Susan O’Handley has prepared a two-sided, full color card which Jim included in his May 15th e-mail for review and comment.
19. Lake Citizen Award (Wayne) – The Board should start thinking about who should receive the Lake Citizen Award for 2021.

20. Replacement for John May/Middlefield (Board) – John May has moved to Vermont and has resigned as the OLA Director from Middlefield. The Co-Presidents, with input from the Board, have appointed Doug Willies to fill out the remaining term of John May. Jim welcomed Doug to the OLA Board.
21. Replacement for Bob Sutherland/Springfield (Board) – Bob Sutherland has retired and plans to leave the area and has resigned as the OLA Director from Springfield. The Co-Presidents, with input from the Board, have appointed Robert Nelson to fill out the remaining term of Bob Sutherland. Jim welcomed Robert to the OLA Board.
22. Miscellaneous (Board) – Doug has suggested that a global overview of the lake over time, including water quality and fish population, would be a good topic for one of our annual membership gatherings. Paul reported that Holly Waterfield of the BFS made such a presentation some years ago and it would take about 40 minutes to present it again – perhaps in 2022? Doug also reported that Japanese Knot Weed, an invasive plant species, is growing on the lower East side of the lake and might make for an interesting article in a future newsletter.
23. 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.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

24. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting (virtual via Zoom) is scheduled for Saturday, August 7th at 9:00 AM for a trial run of the annual membership gathering. Other items that come up before August 7th can be discussed via e-mails.

ADJOURNMENT

25. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 11:32 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

ATTACHMENTS: None

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

MMSP on 04/17/2021 – Authorized \$918.00 for merchandise (restock caps, restock shirts, and new sun visors).

MMSP on 04/17/2021 – Authorized \$577.00 for embroidered logo swim/beach/bath towels (for special events).

MMSP on 04/20/2021 – Authorized \$100.00 for 2021 boat parade advertising flyers.

MMSP on 05/25/2025 – Authorized \$1,199.84 to pay for design, printing, and mailing of spring 2021 newsletter.

See Next Page for OLA Board of Directors

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Spring 2021

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Directors/Middlefield: Peter Regan and Doug Willies

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier
and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Student Director: Sarah Coney

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Winter Update Editor: Ginny Hastings

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