

Otsego Lake Association
P.O. Box 13
Springfield Center, NY 13468
MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, Oct. 1, 2022 at 10:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tilapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Ginny Hastings (Winter Update), BFS Brian covering for Paul Lord. A special thank you to Jim for hosting.

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

OPENING (Started at 10:00 AM)

1. **Treasurer's Report** (Betty) Current Balance \$21,557.60. 2K is encumbered for Boardwalk Project. OCCA is looking for a contractor. Mickie will contact Jeff O'Hanley. Betty reported 35 renewals at Annual Meeting and 20 new members. 8 Non-members purchased raffle tickets and will be added to the membership mailing list. The raffle took in \$1,625.00. The weather station will cost \$1,390.00. Extra funds to be used for buoy maintenance. Debbie Creedon reported that the auction brought in \$948.00. Kudos to Betty and Debbie on meeting and exceeding our goal! We paid a web bill from Tim for \$363.93. Kudos to Tim on his prompt updating of the website. The 30 No Wake Zone posters cost us \$400.00. Ten have been distributed, the remainder will be distributed in the spring.
2. **Newsletter** Oct. 14 deadline for submissions. Scottie hopes to mail out the Newsletter Nov. 1. The theme of the Newsletter will be "Otsego Lake for Future Generations." Scottie Needs photos. Scottie reported that there will be an article on the restored Susquehanna Boat that is going to be returned to the lake. This will be the first in a series of articles on boats. Article on HABs is needed. Scottie suggested that donations could be added to the merchandise purchases as a way to fundraise. She had some cute slogans to go along with the idea. Her other suggestion was to sell OLA posters (past and present) which seem to sell well. She has some in stock and we could add them to our merchandise listing. Ginny has agreed to do a winter update for the newsletter. Mickie suggested that Lakescaping books could also be sold.
3. **No Wake Zone Buoys, Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team** (Brian) The Anodontoides is still out of commission so we will be using Chuck Hascup again. **MMSP** Oct. 29 CLMB change-out. Nov. 5 Buoy swap. Boat inspections will soon be ending. The No Wake Zone cards were helpful to the stewards. They were passed out at motels as well and got a positive response. Stewards also educated boaters about the presence of an HAB in Otsego Lake. Jim congratulated Brian on his recent marriage.

4. **FUNDRAISING** Wayne suggested updating the membership form in the Newsletter; perhaps enlarging it and making it in color, and perhaps doing a fundraising mailing. Jim will contact Jeff Katz from Otsego Community Foundation in hopes of securing grant money. Jim also said that Rotary may help out in the form of funding or volunteer help. The suggestion was made that we have a donation form "In the memory of..." added to the newsletter to encourage people to remember OLA in their will. Ginny will draft a Thank You note to Jane Forbes Clark for the testing funds received by the BFS.
5. **SCIENCE UPDATE** Dr. Yokota gave us an update on boater certification stressing that the quality varies widely and some are not relevant to NYS. In general the free ones are poor quality and the paid ones are better. Completion certificates from any NYS-approved online courses can be tied to NYS DMV records by the individuals applying for an Adventure License. The customer service responsiveness varies widely among the online course vendors. An article outlining this might be a good newsletter item. Dr. Yokota will teach the boater safety course this winter. All Jet Skis/PWCs need to be licensed as of now. Gary brought up the lack of sheriff patrols on the lake. Currently the marine officers are only volunteers and the County Board needs to be encouraged to add it to their budget. Jim will contact Andrew Marietta to get on the County Board Agenda to encourage funding for these patrols. Current HAB testing is in the safe area. So far only one type of toxin (microcystins) of cyanobacteria has been found in Otsego Lake which is not typical, usually more than one species is present. Dr. Yokota said that the cyanobacteria in Otsego Lake is an odd color and does not look healthy. There is no easy solution to the HAB problem and Dr. Yokota suggested that we get a 9 Element Plan, a 9E Plan, with the DEC. This would give us access to 319 funding which is available for septic and agricultural runoff concerns. Since the lake covers four townships the best approach might be via the Watershed Committee which oversees the entire lake. Doug and Jim will bring this to the Watershed Committee at their next meeting. **MMSP** As an aside, Dr. Yokota commented that ice eaters, which are currently in use in many dock areas, may contribute to the HAB situation by stirring up sediments and are currently banned in many locations.
6. A discussion ensued as to OLA's role in HAB notification. Dr. Yokota said that the DEC HAB site is the most thorough. Martin added that the DEC currently says that there 2300 lakes in the northeast that are having HABs. The BFS currently tests for only one toxin and there may be others present. Concerns were raised about notifying renters and motel guests on the lake. Next year it is likely that the same toxins will be present in the spring. Jim and Ginny will draft a letter for the Watershed Committee.
7. **2022 ANNUAL MEETING**-recap The meeting was too long; we need to keep it to two hours maximum with student presentations early in the program. It would be good to mention the raffle more frequently throughout the meeting.
8. **BUFFER STRIP UPDATE** Mickie gave us an update on the reworked buffer strip area with financial help from the Lake & Valley Garden Club and The Village of Cooperstown. Ongoing maintenance is always an issue and volunteers are needed.