

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
Annual Meeting
June 18, 2005

The annual meeting of the Otsego Lake Association was called to order at the Cooperstown Graduate Program Conference Room by President, David Sanford. Board members in attendance were : Scottie Baker, Wayne Bunn, Mary Clarke, Carl Good, Chuck Hage, Paul Lord, Mickie Richtsmeier, and Burr Southworth.

A motion was made by Burr and seconded by Chuck to accept the minutes from the last board meeting. (These had been previously circulated by email.)

The following **Slate of officers** was proposed:

Dr. Kai Mebust – Cooperstown (nominated by Chuck Hage to fill the position held by Chuck who is resigning.)

Burr Southworth – Town of Middlefield

Mary Clarke – Town of Springfield

Scottie Baker – Town of Otsego

David Sanford - President

Burr also reminded the group that there still was an opening from the Town of Middlefield. A suggestion was made from the floor to approach Joan Weber regarding this position.

Treasurer's Report – Mary reported that as of 6/1/05 our balance on hand was \$10,927.41. There had been \$10,000 in receipts and \$7,609.81 in disbursements.

Membership - Mary stated that OLA was always looking for new members and that as of June 1, we have 114 members. Applications are available on our web site.

Boat Launches – Cooperstown-Carl reported that inspections are in progress. While there used to be two inspectors, one is able to cover the job. (Carl informed us that of some 250 boats that were launched, two have required washing.)

Carl also informed us that the Zebra Mussel Committee has met and is concerned about the possibility that Brookwood is opening its launch site to motor boats. The Committee has written a letter to the Cook Foundation expressing concerns including the need for inspectors at the site and the financial commitment that would be necessary. The Foundation replied and a meeting between the Zebra Mussel Committee and the Cook Foundation Rules and Regulations Committee is planned. A discussion followed about

the political and legislative implications, issues regarding convenient access, the fact that other landowners have been approached by Seward's staff, and an alternative solution involving a boat livery.

Springfield - Mary reported that the launch is restricted to Springfield residents. There is a sticker system in place. This is quite casual but since there is no parking available, seems to be working.

No Wake Zone Paul reported that all old buoys (and some new ones) will be in place. The spar buoys have helped to facilitate this process. Paul also reported that Cobbleskill is raising Walleyes for stocking the lake. He also announced that Professor Tom Horvath is looking for the larva form of the zebra mussel and is concentrating his efforts at the boat launches. He also is available to inspect the bricks that members attached to their piers last summer. Paul also reported that the Aerial Survey funded by OLA had a few glitches getting started, but that some good pictures had been taken and now specific areas are going to be studied

Web Site David complimented the excellent web site. Burr replied that he plans to publish minutes on the web site as well and reminded us that membership applications and merchandise are also available on line. A suggestion was made from the floor that we put an ad in the Pennysaver to get people to our website.

Merchandise - Caps, T shirts, and denim shirts have been very successful in bringing in money. These will also be on sale at the Lake Festival. Scottie also informed us that Paula of the Glimmerglass Queen will be selling our shirts on board. We are also selling Lake Scaping for Wildlife for a discount along with a free CD with a plant list appropriate to the Northeast.

NEW BUSINESS

Otsego Lake Festival - July 9, 2005 - Scottie detailed the history of the inception of this event and articulated the hope that it would attract a larger attendance than the lake forums currently do. It is sponsored by all the lake associations and will be a big, important (hopefully annual) event. We donated \$500 along with other lake organizations. A thank you note for OLA's donation. from Theresa Winchester of the Lake Festival Committee was read. Scottie has been attending regular planning meetings and a lot of work has gone into preparing for the Festival. There will be educational activities, good food, and entertainment. One special event will be an antique boat parade. Members were urged to help by: 1) signing up to man our booth (Mickie is coordinating this. A sign up sheet was passed around.) 2) buying commemorative posters and/or 3) taking advertising posters to hang in the community.

A Buffer Strip Display will be underwritten by OLA This will be planted at the foot of Pioneer St. for display at the Festival and will be a permanent area which will display lake friendly plants which buffer run-off. Landscaping work will be done by Melinda's greenhouse in Richfield Springs.

Paul Lord stated that he will work to get out a copy of the **OLA NEWS** before the Lake Festival. Paul then shared a comprehensive presentation which he, along with Wes Tibbiets and Robert Johnson, had developed entitled “**Mud In Your Lake**”. This was very informative and covered such areas as the effects of fertilizers, byproducts of burning fossil fuel, storm water sediment, milfoil growth, damming, sea walls, impervious surfaces, ditches, silt fencing, and buffer strips. Dan Rosen suggested that Paul make these presentations for the local planning boards. There also was a discussion about how to report DEC infractions of putting mud into the lake.

Prior to our guest presentation, David Sanford called for nominations from the floor for board members. There were no other nominations so David moved that the **slate** be **accepted**, Carl seconded, and the slate was voted so accepted.

Guest Presentation – Jeff O’Hanlan from the Wildlife Learning Co. discussed his goal of educating people about the environment through wildlife. Jeff explained his focus was “what’s here” and displayed and talked about the bullfrog, wood turtle, horseshoe crab, and turkey vulture.

The meeting was adjourned with a raffle where everyone won something.