

Otsego Lake Association Annual Meeting June 17, 2006

The OLA Annual Meeting was called to order by President, David Sanford at the Thayer Boathouse.

Board of Nominations for Directors :

Nominees were: President - Paul Lord, Town of Springfield - Mickie Richtsmeier, Town of Otsego - John Lambert, Village of Cooperstown - Carl Good, and Town of Middlefield - David Sanford. Nominations from the floor were solicited, and since there were none, it was moved and seconded that one ballot be cast for the slate. The slate was passed.

Minutes:

It was moved and passed that the minutes from our last meeting be accepted. (These have been posted on the OLA web site.)

Otsego Lake Festival

Scottie Baker reported that the Otsego Lake Festival will be held on July 8, 2006 at Lake Front Park. OLA will be one of the exhibitors with many other community organizations. Scottie reported that Susan O'Handley has been hired as event planner and that exhibits, music, and food are planned. Scottie also displayed the poster that has been developed for the event. These were on sale for \$20 each at our meeting and also will be available at the Festival itself. This, hopefully, will be an annual event. This year the festival will be dedicated to Bob. Seaver. Scottie recommended the festival's wonderful web site, www.otsegolakefestival.com

Buffer Strip

Paul Lord reminded the group that last year our showcase at the Lake Festival was the buffer strip planting. He explained that an expansion of the buffer strip is being considered to continue across the front of Lake Front Park. Now water runs down park property causing erosion and soil to spill into the lake. Erosion is also occurring because of north wind. To deal with this, OLA will pay for rip rap in addition to deep rooting plants. OLA is in the process of working with the Lake and Valley Garden Club on this project. A tentative plan is being developed. At this point it is projected that plantings will cost approximately \$2500. Benches, decorative rocks and a raised walkway that parallels the current sea wall are also included in the tentative plan. Members are asked to contact Paul if they would like to work on this. The Biological Field Station tells us that 19 million pounds of mud are going into the lake each year! There was a discussion about this including questions about buffer strips for the golf courses and ditching problems along the roads.

Land Use and Building Regulations on the Lake

Wayne Bunn introduced this as a timely topic due to the number of "tear downs", new construction, and renovations that are going on or are being planned around the lake.

Representatives from the Towns of Springfield and Otsego were present to discuss this issue.

Town of Springfield - The Town of Springfield was represented by Dave Staley, Chairman of the Planning Board. He noted that Springfield had been slow in the planning area, but that recent efforts to increase the land use of wind energy had been an incentive for more planning. Springfield has been discussing a moratorium on industrial wind development in order to give the board time to learn about this issue. Dave said that the planning board wants to have a community plan based on community consensus, but that there had not been much luck in this area. Dave reported that Springfield currently has a site plan review, and that if a property owner has a project, an application can be obtained from the town clerk to see whether site plan or other laws apply. Local Law #3 (now local law #1 of 2006) was amended and is pertinent to land owners who front or have deeded access to the lake. Landowners should refer to the law for specifics. There are also regulations on sewage, and Springfield is in the forefront in requiring phosphorus-removing technology. Dave also said that the Springfield Town Board is scheduled to meet in a workshop to discuss “what is a comprehensive plan?” on June 22 at 7 pm at the Community Center.

A discussion followed about the importance of participating in local government, the Mt. Tom development, when it is permitted to cut diseased or fallen trees, the system of coordinating county-town approval for project permits, and the challenge of filling the position of fulltime codes enforcement officer which now has been approved by the Town of Springfield.

Town of Otsego -The Town of Otsego was represented by Jonathan Bass, Chairman of the Planning Board. He informed us that subdivision and land use regulations are in effect, and that The Village of Cooperstown also has its own regulations. He explained that the Town of Otsego is now at a crossroads in the process of comprehensive planning. Jonathan stated that he expects changes in the areas of both minor and major subdivisions. In response to a question, Jonathan answered that there has been some increase in commercial pressure regarding subdividing, but most of the pressure has been residential. He also said that the Town was looking at the possibility of the lake shores’ (Otsego and Canadarago) having their own districts.

Questions were posed about the impact of outside developers and it was acknowledged that there seemed to have been more involvement by outside developers in the past 2-3 years. It was also asked what had prompted the decision to update the comprehensive plan. The response was that this had come from the board itself since it had been decades since there had been a review. There were also questions and discussions about what the towns were doing regarding holding tanks.

Some other information that Jonathan shared was that there could be no changes in the footprint of a structure within 100 ft of lake. At 500 ft from lake, the footprint can be expanded if it meets the site plan. Owners were advised to meet with Mike Miller, the new zoning officer, to see it was necessary to meet with the planning board. State

Environmental review typically is not needed for residential renovations, but if the structure is in an historic district a “coordinated review” must be done.

PR Discussion - David showed OLA membership the large magnetic sign that Wayne Bunn had been instrumental in obtaining. David polled the group about whether we should also sponsor bumper stickers based on the same design (they would cost about \$1 each). Based on the interest shown by the group, it was decided that OLA will go ahead with the project.

Treasurer’s Report – Mary Clarke reported that OLA disbursements total \$9015.87. Receipts total \$7836. Our balance on hand (as of 5/31/06) is \$9747.54. We have approximately 100 members, but are hoping this will increase as year passes.

Our next meeting is being planned for the third Saturday in August.

David introduced our new OLA president, Paul Lord. Paul thanked David for his leadership and service and spoke to the membership about the imperative of implementing Lake Management Plan. Paul also spoke about how proud we should be that zebra mussels have been kept out of Otsego Lake. He also spoke about how there were many other important issues that OLA should address. Among these were our need to get our info out into the news, our need help to manage the no wake zone buoy work, and to support the Lake Festival. Paul asked the membership to get involved and to communicate their ideas to the Board.

The meeting adjourned for socialization and announcement of the raffle winners.

Meeting of the OLA Board of Directors June 17, 2006

Following the annual meeting, President, Paul Lord called a brief meeting of the Board. All Board members were present. Paul congratulated the newly elected board members and announced that Mickie agreed to serve as vice-president. Paul asked board members to think about whether they would like to change their assignments and to get back to him about that.

Paul will send out an email regarding our next board meeting. We probably will have to meet regarding the lake festival.

Photos - Paul also informed us that the BFS will redevelop pictures of the larger plume. Scottie also said that we needed a bigger picture for our exhibit in particular.

Financial

Aerial photos –It was moved and unanimously passed that we allot up to \$2000 for BFS to take pictures of mud entering the lake. Martha Frey of Otsego 2000 will also use these to get funding for ditches. We agreed to give \$1500 now and \$500 later.

Lakefront -The buffer strip will cost approximately \$2500 for plants, \$800 flagstones, and \$500 for decorate boulders. Lake and Valley Garden Club pledged \$1500 toward this project. A motion was made and accepted that we match the Garden Club gift utilizing \$1000 from our funds in addition to the \$500 donation from E Harvey. This was thought to be particularly appropriate since E was a long time garden club member and OLA supporter.

Compressor – Paul informed us that for five years the BFS has been working with the college to move the compressor to the lake where it would enable the divers to fill their tanks on site. Unfortunately, there is no 3 phase power in the Thayer Boathouse building. Paul went to OCCA to ask for a donation to upgrade the electrical service. OCCA is not willing to foot the whole bill. (It will cost \$1200 to put a power converter in the Thayer Boathouse.) Mary informed us that \$1000 had been pledged for drains, leaving \$4500. We agreed to donate \$600 to the project and ask OCCA to match this. Note: Paul Lord abstained from this vote.

Business

Wayne has put in application in for the 4th of July Parade in Springfield. We need a flat bed trailer for Scottie's canoes. Paul, Carl, and Scottie agreed to check out the trailers at the Thayer Farm after the meeting. Commitments were solicited for the 4th of July. Board members who can participate must be in Springfield by 10:15am for an 11 am start. We'll hear more on email.

Publicity Scottie will talk to Dan Rosen to get a list of sites used previously.

Rob Lee is interested in being director at large. He wants to help, and the Board was supportive of his involvement,

Meeting was adjourned.