

# OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13  
SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

## FINAL MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING

Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival Pavilion – Otsego Lake  
Saturday, August 12, 2017 at 8:30 AM

### ATTENDANCE

Present: Mickie Richtsmeier (President), Scottie Baker (Vice President and Director/Otsego), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Pati Grady (Treasurer and Director/Springfield), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), David Sanford (Director/Middlefield), John May (Director/Middlefield), Jim Howarth (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), and Amanda May (Consultant).

Attendance: Approximately 85 Members

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

### OPENING

1. Coffee, juice, donuts, fruit, cheese, and crackers were served at 8:30 AM so members could mingle other members, bid on the silent auction items, renew their membership, and visit the various displays set up and staffed by the Biological Field Station (BFS).
2. President Mickie Richtsmeier opened the meeting at 9:00 AM and welcomed everyone. She then reviewed the OLA activities and accomplishments during the past year. These included: participation at Earth Festival, Otsego Lakes Festival, and Rotary Spring Fling; completion and dedication of new Carl B. Good Boat Washing Station in Cooperstown; fourth annual “We Love Our Lake” boat parade; support of BFS volunteer dive team; attendance at Otsego County Water Coordination Committee meetings; attendance at various municipal board meetings to monitor and/or comment on issues that impact Otsego Lake; attendance at annual conference of NYS Federation of Lake Associations; and participation at annual maintenance day at lakefront buffer strip in Cooperstown. Francesca Zambello, Artist and General Director of Glimmerglass Festival, also welcomed everyone to the Glimmerglass Festival campus and encouraged them to join the behind the scenes tour of the Festival operations after the meeting.
3. Treasurer’s Report – Pati reported there is \$11,561.67 in the checking account as of August 2, 2017
4. Amendment to By-Laws (MMSP) – President Mickie Richtsmeier presented a proposed amendment to the OLA By-Laws whereby the position of Co-Presidents would replace the current position of President. A motion to enact the proposed amendment to the By-Laws was made and seconded by OLA members in the audience and was passed by a voice vote.
5. Election of Officers (MMSP) – The following slate of Officers for election in 2017 was recommended by the Board of Directors: Co-Presidents - Mickie Richtsmeier and Scottie Baker, Director/Otsego – William Murdock, Director/Middlefield – John May, Director/Springfield – Pati Grady, and Director/Cooperstown – Martin

Tillapuagh; there were no nominations from the floor; a motion for the Secretary to cast one ballot for the above Officers was made and seconded by OLA members in the audience and was passed by a voice vote.

## **PROGRAM**

6. Dr. Kiyoko Yokota, Assistant Professor of Biology at SUNY Oneonta and BFS Researcher, presented information on the recently installed fully automated research buoy in the middle of, and deepest (168 feet) part of, the lake just north of Five Mile Point. The new buoy will monitor 47 water quality and weather parameters and transmit them every 15 minutes via cell service to a remote server maintained by the buoy manufacturer. The data will then be downloaded and used in the ongoing research on Otsego Lake and to predict future water quality after a major rain or wind storm and to evaluate long term trends in relation with changing climate. The new buoy was funded by a \$70,000 grant from the National Science Foundation and will replace the existing research buoy just off shore at Five Mile Point which had to be read manually about every two week.
7. Paul Lord presented information on the new boat washing station in Cooperstown and about the two No Wake Zone buoys (one next to the research buoy at Five Mile Point and one at Four Mile Point East) that have apparently been stolen this summer. Paul also auctioned off the large red 2' x 4' No Wake Zone banner – won by Bob O'Neill for \$75.
8. Bob Sutherland presented information on the history of theater productions in the Springfield area including the Kingsley house (Swanswick) and the Duke's Oak summer theater. Donald Fenner, current property owner of the former Duke's Oak Theater, presented a history of the property, the theatrical productions, and the restoration of the existing house. Many OLA members remembered attending productions at the Duke's Oak Theater.
9. Dr. Willard "Bill" Harman, long time Director of the BFS, presented information on the history of the Goodyear Swamp, and its importance to the water quality of Otsego Lake, including a video prepared some years ago by the Lake and Valley Garden Club. Bill also reviewed the history of the existing boardwalk throughout the swamp, its current condition which has forced the BFS to close the swamp, and the current fund raising efforts to raise \$50,000 to restore the boardwalk. At the end of Bill's presentation, OLA President Mickie Richtsmeier announced that the OLA Board of Directors has pledged \$1,000 to the boardwalk restoration project.
10. Wayne Bunn presented the 2017 Lake Citizen Award to Dr. Willard "Bill" Harman for his 50 years of continuous research and reporting on the conditions of Otsego Lake, being Director of the Biological Field Station since 1968, educating hundreds of biology students and interns in the field of limnology, working with area farmers to implement lake friendly agricultural practices, overseeing construction and maintenance of the Goodyear Swamp boardwalk, developing the Thayer Farm and Boathouse for educational purposes, starting and running the masters degree program in lake management (only one in the country), and, most importantly, for his genuine interest and dedication to ensure the health, well being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake. The members gave Bill a standing ovation in appreciation for his dedication to Otsego Lake.

## **SILENT AUCTION**

11. The bidding for the silent auction items ended at the conclusion of the Lake Citizen Award presentation and all winners were requested to pick up their item(s) and pay the Treasurer.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

12. President Mickie Richtsmeier thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting and adjourned the meeting at 10:30 AM.

**BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR**

13. A behind the scenes tour of the Glimmerglass Festival campus was conducted by Joel Morain of the Glimmerglass staff and attended by many OLA members.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn  
Secretary and Director at Large

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