

MINUTES
OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 2003
Cooperstown Trustees Room

Attendees: Directors: Bob Einreinhofer, Dan Rosen, Paul Lord, Carl Good, Chuck Hage, Mary Clarke, Scottie Baker. Members: Win McIntyre (technical adviser), Paul Webber. Absent: Bur Southworth, Doug Willies, Bryant Kolner.

Bob Einreinhofer, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He then provided a brief overview of the agenda and director's roles.

Otsego Director Vacancy

Scottie Baker was nominated to fill one of the Town of Otsego Director's positions left open by the resignation of Bobbie Reed who moved from the area. She will serve the balance of a three-year term scheduled to end 6/05, if confirmed at the next annual meeting. It was also decided to solicit others as to their interest in serving as directors when vacancies occur.

Action- Bob to contact by 1/04 the Directors who are serving a two-year term to determine if they want to seek re-election when their terms end in 6/04.

Action- Dan to include in the membership application a check-off box for members who would consider running for Director and also update letterhead.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Clarke, who took over the treasurer's responsibility from Bobbi Reed, said that the balance on hand as of 8/31/03 was \$7451.29 but with expenditures exceeding revenues since then, the balance, as of 9/18/03 is \$6,150.81. Most, if not all of the funds, will be used for educational material, stationery, and postage.

Accounting for the tee shirt effort, it was reported that the cost of production was \$481.05. To date sales totaled \$857. Steve O'Neill, whose contribution toward this project included the logo and the design and production of the decals, was given some shirts in appreciation. This gift covered only a very small part of his personal outlay.

Membership

Mary Clarke reported that as of 9/18, there were the following member categories: 72 family; 47 individuals; 9 businesses; and 27 endowments. In order to determine total members, the family and endowment figures were adjusted upward to reflect more than one person in each group. Multiplying those by two gives a total membership of 254.

Committee Reports:

Education/Public Relations

Dan Rosen reported that the series of one-liners run in the PennySaver all summer was completed though there were no mail contacts for more information or membership. The group felt that they should be continued next year and that recent membership might have resulted from that series. He also circulated an article he had written for the Freeman's Journal on septics and lakeside homeowners.

Discussion followed regarding the necessity of getting more members, particularly getting a higher proportion of those living between Routes 31 and 80 and the lake. It was agreed that OLA should generate more newspaper articles on select topics. Four people had been asked to do specific topics month's earlier and only one person produced a draft that needed much work. A series of potential article topics were mentioned that ranged from 4-stroke engines to lake friendly practices.

Action- Dan and Win will review articles each wrote in prior years to see if they can be updated and re-run. All article preparation (one dozen is the current goal) for next summer should be completed during the winter and early spring.

Action- Dan to review membership database and contact members interested in education to write future articles.

Membership Drive

There will be a spring membership drive. Dan suggested that the solicitation for both renewal and new members should be a one-page letter with a simplified application on one side and a montage of newspaper clippings on the other with a simple message such as "Look what OLA has accomplished so far—Please join us." Mary Clarke and Scottie Baker volunteered to assist Dan with the Membership Drive. Scottie also offered to provide one of her color photos of the lake to new members.

Action- Membership committee to contact members who expressed an interest in soliciting new members for the 2004 Membership Drive.

Action- Dan to modify application form for committee interest and address clarification.

Action- Bob to develop list of OLA accomplishments.

Action- Mary and Burr to develop membership database.

No Wake Zone Buoys

Win McIntyre reported on the delays that kept the full complement of buoys from being put in. The problem began with the county budget crunch that removed the sheriff's patrol, and that, in turn, prevented some agency from taking possession because insurance would not be available without patrols. Also, there were delays getting the appropriate lights for the buoys. (Dan added that two County representatives assured him that there would be no problem funding the Sheriff for five hours per week next year. Bob added that he is forging another agreement with the DEC for six hours coverage. The 11-hour total is required for the appropriate insurance.) Win said that four buoys were installed and have markers and that the others have shore markers, which will make it easier to install next year. The goal is to have 30 markers in total but that is contingent upon some Clarke Foundation funding and some motels, the country club and Sam Smith's Boatyard taking responsibility for some buoys.

Action- Win to issue report on available funding. Bob and Win will address any shortfalls.

Action – Bob to send letters to the four municipalities requesting their support for the \$200 Buoy Maintenance in 2004.

Action – Major push to be made in 2004 to make public aware of 200 ft NWZ. Plan to be developed 1/04.

Action – Bob to send letter to the County Board of Representatives for 2004 Sheriff's Patrol Coverage.

Cooperstown Boat Wash

Carl Good reported that for the year-to-date there were 1,375 boat inspections. Revenue from fees was \$13,660. The Village and Clark Foundation will continue to contribute \$10,000 each per year. Add to that some of Win's grant money plus OLAs contribution and the total revenue approaches \$35,000 roughly the expenses for running the operation. It was also reported that the zebra mussel population is spreading at Canadarago Lake. Underwater structures and boats are covered.

There was also mention of the fact that zebra mussels frequently contaminate anchor lines and wells and that the inspectors should have a refresher course.

Action – Carl to insure all inspectors are trained and given a refresher course.

Action – Carl to coordinate return of second power-washer from Bill's Garage to the Village Garage.

Springfield Landing

This launch site continues to be an exotic species security gap. Dan reported that there are serious breaches of the town's own rules regarding who uses the launch. Others have reported similar situations. There is currently no one trained to inspect no less ask the appropriate questions. The town supervisor assured Dan and Mary last spring that a rack would be made upon which relevant signs could be hung. Nothing has been done even though both Mary and Dan spoke to the Supervisor. It was pointed out that the composition of the Town Board could change after elections and, if so, better security would be assured.

Action – Dan and Mary to coordinate letter writing effort and attendance of members and non-members at Town Board Meetings to register dissatisfaction with the situation at the town launch.

Action – Dan and Mary to follow up with caretaker training in 2004.

Action - Bob to write a letter to the Town Board requesting their support in 2004.

Merchandise

Scottie Baker volunteered to take over the merchandising. It was suggested that OLA market caps and sweatshirts. It was also agreed that there should be a \$4 shipping charge for out-of-town orders. Merchandise will be advertised on the webpage and included in the newsletter.

Action – Paul to include merchandise in webpage.

Action – Bob to include merchandise in newsletter.

Action – Scottie to investigate marketing caps and other merchandise.

Land Usage

Doug Willies, chairman of that committee, was unable to attend.

Signage

Paul Webber who has that responsibility discussed with the group the number of new signs on navigational regulations that will be needed. It was also mentioned that the buoy signs would have to be updated to reflect the increased number of buoys.

Action – Paul to coordinate any sign storage over the winter.

Action – Paul to contact SUCO personnel to design new signs.

Action – Paul to make changes to brochure on jetski regulations and contact person for membership.

Web Site and Sportsman's Clubs

Paul Lord said there have been minor additions to the website. The Lake Management Plan was added and the Annual Meeting Agenda has been included. Paul indicated that his new assignment takes him on the road for much of the time and that he will only be able to get to the appropriate computer on Sundays. Burr Southworth, a Middlefield Director, will be asked to take over.

Action – Paul to update webpage and add annual meeting minutes.

Action - Paul to contact Burr regarding take-over and equipment requirements.

Paul updated the group on the walleye stocking program and the role of the DEC and the BFS. A motion was made and approved to contribute \$1000 to the BFS toward this effort and other research on the lake.

Action – Paul to coordinate the contribution with the BFS.

Paul also urged that a video camera be purchased in order to document the problem of silt build-up from stream flow after a precipitation event. Aerial photography will be able to pinpoint the source of the erosion putting brown water into the lake. The video camera would also be available for other uses.

Action - Paul to price an appropriate camera.

Action – Burr and Paul to look into the cost of a small plane charter (Donation?) for future aerial photography.

Law Enforcement

Bryant Kolner was unable to attend so Bob substituted. He indicated that thank you notes were sent to the DEC and sheriff for getting patrols back on the lake.

Action - Bob to send letter to DEC for 2004 coverage.

A question was raised about potential problems that could arise if the 350-acre Reynolds-Branson proposed residential development gets started. There were concerns about erosion and run-off and its impact on the houses below as well as the lake. Harry Levine of Advocates for Springfield was to be contacted for more information. It was also pointed out that Middlefield's land-use regulations were relatively good.

Action – Bob to contact Harry Levine.

Watershed Supervisory Committee

Win McIntyre mentioned that the committee meets every three months, which drew comments about its seeming infrequency. He mentioned that the Dept.of Health is currently reviewing new rules and regulations for a mandatory septic inspection program.

Win added that there was an application for a \$50,000 grant for the septic program. One half had to be a local match to get the program going. Next year an inventory of septic systems would start and provide more solid data. It would be GIS based. By 2005, inspection would commence and take approximately 5 years to complete. Septic systems will be a top priority for OLA.

Action – Win and Bob to insure that updates will be given to the membership at future meetings.

Brookfield

The Brookfield resort development project is currently before the Springfield Planning Board. OLA has registered as an “interested party” and has joined with other concerned community groups to hire a land use attorney to review the project and the applicability of Local Law #3. A list of environmental concerns was submitted by OLA to the Planning Board. An OLA petition with 89 names was also submitted asking that a “positive declaration” be issued, therefore triggering an Environmental Impact Study.

Action – Bob to keep the Board informed on the status of the Brookfield development.

Glimmerglass Queen

Bob sent a thank you note to Paula and Terry Wikoff, the Queen’s owners, noting that the problematic wake the boat was creating had diminished due to the reduction of the speed. The change in the course of the boat on its return trip was also helpful in reducing shoreline erosion and the re-suspension of phosphorous.

New Committees

Three new committees will be formed to address specific issues.

- 1) Nominating Committee: Four Director positions will come due in 2004 and four in 2005. Membership applications will solicit members who may be interested in serving. Action – Bob to insure that a committee is formed by 1/04.
- 2) Volunteer Committee: More member involvement is needed to increase knowledge and interest in the association, and to reduce the workload on some of the Directors. Action – Scottie to develop proposal and to coordinate volunteer efforts.
- 3) Newsletter: Good communication is a must in educating and keeping the membership informed. Action – Dan and Paul Lord to submit a proposal for a newsletter and other ideas. Board to review in January.

Critique

*The critique of our first year was conducted to scrutinize areas where we need to improve. There is a perception that the organization is elitist. It was pointed out that the very structure of the organization—with two directors from each of the four municipalities bordering the lake—was designed to damp that view. However, the very fact that a lake association heavily involves those who live on or very close to the lake (and therefore must be wealthy) will always provide a rationale for those that think of OLA as elitist. *We need to involve more members as volunteers to serve on committees and work on projects.

*We need to improve our educational efforts.

*We need to have more than one meeting per year.

Future

Our future efforts will focus on (1) septic system inspections (2) expansion of educational efforts and membership involvement, including having more than one meeting per year (3) land usage.

OCCA

The OCCA relationship with OLA has not improved. Although we have extended personal invitations, they have not attended our functions nor joined our association. They have not recognized our existence or our role in regard to the Lake Management Plan. We will continue our efforts toward mutual support and respect. To this end the Directors approved a \$150 contribution for OLA membership in OCCA as a contributing member.

Lake Friendly Practices

Educational materials will be obtained for mailers and posting at local nurseries and garden centers.

Action – Chuck Hage to prepare information for 1/04 BoD meeting.

Annual Meeting

Two meetings will be scheduled each summer. Members will be contacted regarding content. Meetings will be scheduled well in advance so members can mark their calendars.

Action – Bob to lock in dates and develop agenda.

Next BoD Meeting will be January 8, at 7PM. Bob to schedule for Town of Otsego.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.

(Submitted by Dan Rosen; Approved by Bob Einreinhofer, 9/30/03)

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