

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM
COOPERSTOWN VILLAGE MEETING ROOM**

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Scottie Baker, Mary Crumenthal, Pati Grady, Paul Lord, Tim Pokorny, Mickie Richtsmeier, David Sanford, Martin Tillapaugh, and Joseph Zarzynski

OPENING OF MEETING - Acting President, Mickie Richtsmeier, called the meeting to order.

1. Treasurer's Report – David reported that in August 2013 that \$1158 in was collected in memberships, \$1158 in sales, and \$780 in contributions. We have approximately \$13,000 in the treasury.
2. Membership Report (David)-we now have approximately 300 members

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys /BFS Dive Team – Mickie reported that she had written a letter on behalf of the organization with regard to the No Wake Zone Law in the Town of Springfield. Directors from Springfield will continue to monitor and advocate for this.
4. Boat Inspections -Tim reported that there were more inspections this year, but that there were on-going difficulties getting reliable inspectors. Zarr commented that Asian clams have been found in Lake George and that they may have been introduced from anchors/anchor lines. Paul added that kayaks are also problematic in that they have compartments that can retain water and carry invasive species from place to place. The Board discussed the need for education and the importance of raising public awareness about the potential threat of invasive species. The Board discussed how the situation with recruitment and retention of inspectors could be improved. Paul indicated that it would be important to recruit inspectors early, improve the quality of the data recorded on the worksheet used, and suggested that an increase from minimum wage and an “end of season” bonus should be considered. Other concerns were how to better involve the motels on the lake, Sam Smith's, and the sailing club in inspection training. Discussion also included utilizing public service announcements and developing an educational campaign. The Board was in agreement that this was extremely important, and a committee was formed to come back to the Board with specific recommendations. Paul, Tim, and Mickie volunteered to work on this with assistance from Pati with regard to marketing. Carl will also be asked to participate. Martin informed us that the Village was considering legislation in this area and added that he and Carl had discussed that would be helpful to develop an informative pamphlet about boating laws, dangers of invasive species, etc. Martin also informed us that the village was trying to come up with another mechanism to enhance compliance with inspections that might involve daily permits to park on Fish Road issued only after boat inspection.
5. Merchandise –Scottie confirmed that we do not need to reorder at this time. She will follow up on Zarr's suggestion and will investigate shirts in a “wicking” material.
6. Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee- Carl continues to attend meetings
7. Buffer Strips -Mickie reported that Lake and Valley Garden Club has scheduled a clean up day for the buffer strips. Lynn Marsh has also been weeding at Springfield. Suzy Kingsley will keep us informed about plans for NYSHA.

8. Website –Tim reports that he will continue to update the homepage. This has been a very time consuming project. Pati will also share links to other lake organization websites with Tim and check with NYSHA to make sure that it will be permissible for Tim to post a copy of the slideshow from the annual meeting.
9. Newsletter –Zarr reported that he put out two newsletters last year. The usual format consisted of a letter from the president and articles of scientific or historic interest. Zarr raised the issue of when memberships were due. The Board decided to use July 1 as a goal, requesting renewals in the spring. We would also like to get a newsletter out this Fall to capitalize on this summer’s momentum and while David still has access to his current network. Tim and other board members will check out alternatives that would accommodate our large list of addressees.
10. Mud Plume Photography (Paul)- no new developments
11. Coordination with OCCA (Wayne) and Otsego 2000 (Scottie)- no new reports.
12. Photographs from the OLA- Otsego Land Trust “Water, Water, Everywhere” contest will be on display at the Cooperstown Art Association from September 27-October 25. The opening will be on Friday, September 27 from 5-7 PM.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review of Annual Meeting –(Pati and committee) The Board unanimously expressed its appreciation for a great meeting. Pati expressed her thanks to her committee and all the board members for their help. Pati said that she felt the venue was a draw, but also had been a deterrent for the handicapped. She also was excited to report that both NYSHA and Sue Friedlander would be willing to do a program with OLA again. With feedback from Pati, the board commented on the quality of the presentations, the balance of history and science, the great food, successful silent auction, great publicity, and excellent organization of the event.
2. Presidential Vacancy and Officer Vacancies- Paul and Mickie will explore potential candidates for the presidency. The Board was very sad to accept Mary Crumenthal’s resignation. Mary indicated that she hoped that Wayne Bunn would be elected to serve in her position. A motion was made, seconded, and universally passed that Wayne be invited to rejoin the Board. Paul will also speak with Emily Davidson about becoming a Student OLA Director, and the board agreed to accept her as a director if she consented.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Einreinhofer DOT letter- the Board supported our responding to the DOT openness for input regarding plantings for the lake shoreline reconstruction. Mickie and Paul will work on this with Suzy Kingsley from Lake and Valley Garden Club, and Lynn Marsh.
2. Summer 2014 Programs - The Board agreed that we will focus on an annual meeting and support a new lake activity
 - a. Boat Parade – several local people are interested in pursuing this. Mickie will solicit chairmen and committee members and report back at our next meeting.
 - b. Annual Meeting – Pati has agreed to organize this event with the possible date of August 8, 2014. She will report back at our next meeting.

3. BFS Summer Internship- Several other local organizations sponsor a student project during the summer. Paul spoke with Bill Harman regarding this, and it would require a stipend for both faculty and student. We may want to explore this further depending on our other financial commitments.

Date for next Board of Directors Meeting - Wednesday, October 30, 2013 at Village Meeting Room (unless otherwise announced).

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Mickie Richtsmeier

Secretary