

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13
SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Jim Howarth's House - Cooperstown
Sunday, October 22, 2017 at 5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mickie Richtsmeier (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Co-President), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), David Sanford (Director/Middlefield), John May (Director/Middlefield), Jim Howarth (Director/Cooperstown), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: Pati Grady (Treasurer and Director/Springfield) and Amanda May (Consultant).

Guests: Katie Sanford, Joan Bunn, Cathy Howarth, Meg Tillapaugh, and Dave Creedon joined the Board for dinner after the meeting.

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING

1. Treasurer's Report (Pati) – Pati reported via e-mail that there is \$15,834.33 in the checking account as of October 15, 2017 (see attached report). MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.
2. Membership Report (Pati) – Many members re-joined or joined for the first time at the Annual Meeting in August. Other donations received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Paul reported that the special buoy next to the former research buoy at Five Mile Point has located (north end of lake near golf course) and retrieved. During BuoyFest on October 15th, the dive team retrieved all of the NWZ buoys (except 3) and replaced them with spare buoys for the winter season. One buoy is damaged and needs to be replaced. The remaining 3 buoys (lakefront in Cooperstown, Public Landing in Springfield, and 1 other) will be retrieved just before Christmas which is their normal practice. MMSP for \$1,600 for repairs and equipment for the dive team. MMSP for \$80.50 for reimbursement to dive team for pizza and soda during BuoyFest.
4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – Village does not have 2017 records on boat inspections and washings entered into their computer system (data exists but not entered). This situation may have some future implications with the NYS grant. Martin will contact the Village to see if they can resolve the data entry. Mickie will send a letter to private launch sites (i.e. Aalsmeer Motel, Bayside Motel, Lake 'N Pines, etc.) requesting that they send all boats to Cooperstown to be inspected (and washed if necessary).
5. Merchandise (Scottie) – Scottie took photos of Mickie and Bob modeling current OLA merchandise - to be used in the upcoming fall newsletter to promote the sale of the merchandise.

6. Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (Mickie) – Mickie, Jim, or Kiyoko will try to attend future meetings (scheduled for last Wednesday of the month); Mickie has been attending this summer.
7. Newsletter – Susan O’Handley will again coordinate the fall newsletter. Articles will feature Otsego Lake in the winter including ice fishing, dive team ice dives, research, and any other topics that Board members wish to submit. It will also include the usual Co-President’s message, merchandise for sale, membership application, and report on the boat parade. Bob Sutherland will be recognized for being named OCCA’s Conservationist of the Year for 2017. OLA will sponsor two “ice on” contests for contestants to guess when Otsego Lake will freeze over during the winter of 2017 – 2018. Official “ice on” date will be determined by the Biological Field Station as part of their normal winter reporting activities. One contest will be for adult members with the prize being some type of OLA merchandise and the other contest will be for high school age students with the prize being some party supplies. Mickie and Scottie will meet with CCS personnel. [MMSP](#) for \$150 for the party supplies.
8. Website (Tim) – Everything is up to date and OK. Tim uses Google Analytics to track OLA website usage to determine how many “hits” are made on the website. Since January 1, 2017, there has been a total of 882 sessions with 783 from the United States. Tim uses the MailChimp tracking program to send out the newsletters and electronic news/updates to 134 recipients – approximately 60% of those recipients are opening the e-mails sent. Tim was having some issues with the way he was naming files and pages on the website so he spent a day renaming/fixing those issues. His next project is to establish a page that will show links to every photo page on the website (right now, these photo links are randomly spread out all over the website) and eventually link the icons/photos that appear on the right side of the website to information/links on boating, fishing, wildlife, and parks on/near the lake.
9. Coordination with Other Organizations: OCCA, Otsego 2000, and OLT (Board) – Mickie and Scottie will continue to work with these organizations; need to mention Otsego 2000 in OLA fall newsletter regarding their future funding for the boat washing station.
10. Boat Parade (Wayne) – Fifth Annual “We Love Our Lake” Boat Parade will be held around the 4th of July holiday which falls on a Wednesday in 2018. The Boat Parade Committee, to be chaired by Wayne again, will decide the specific date and time.
11. Annual Meeting (Bob) – Scheduled for August 2018 - specific date and location to be determined by Annual Meeting Committee with Bob Sutherland as Chairman. Location of meeting is open for suggestions including Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival again (1st choice), Pathfinder Lodge, Hyde Hall, Five Mile Point, Girl Scout Camp, etc. Main topic is also open for suggestions.

OLD BUSINESS

12. Water Quality Monitoring Buoy at Five Mile Point (Kiyoko) – The BFS volunteer dive team removed the new automated research buoy in October and replaced it with the original manual research buoy for the winter months. This year, there was an issue with the timing of removing the docks and BFS barge from the Thayer Boathouse. Dr. Harman wanted the dock and barge out of the water by late October. Paul and Kiyoko would like to leave the new automated research buoy in the lake until after the lake “turns over” in the fall in order to capture important research data. Paul is looking for a year round dock somewhere close to Five Mile Point with about 6 feet of water that he can use to park the barge and dismantle the new research buoy after the lake “turns over”. Wayne suggested Paul Belmonte’s dock which is about ½ mile north of Five Mile Point. Wayne knows Belmonte personally and will contact him for permission to use his dock.

13. Goodyear Swamp Boardwalk Restoration Project (Mickie) – It is unclear at this point where the funding stands for this project. OLA’s pledge of \$1,000 is not due until start of actual construction.

NEW BUSINESS

14. Letter to New Lakeside Homeowners/Renters (Debbie) – Debbie and Paul are working on a letter to be sent to all new lakeside homeowners plus weekly or seasonal renters describing various issues that affect Otsego Lake such as septic systems, no wake zone buoys, boater safety, etc. The letter can be distributed by the local real estate firms upon the closing/rental of a property or by the Dreams Park rental agencies upon the weekly rental of a property. The Otsego County Real Property Tax Service’s GIS Department can generate a list of property owners within a specified distance from the lake.
15. Facebook Page (Debbie) – Debbie has set up a new Facebook page for OLA. Contact Debbie if you need any help accessing the page.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

16. Date for Next Board Meeting – Mickie will propose a couple of dates and poll the Board via e-mail to see which date works best for everyone; probably a February meeting around the Cooperstown Winter Carnival weekend.

ADJOURNMENT

17. MMSP to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM.

SPECIAL THANKS

The OLA Board extends a very special “Thank You” to Jim and Cathy Howarth for hosting the meeting including a social gathering before the meeting and a wonderful dinner after the meeting. Also, a big thank you to all of the Board members who brought food for the social gathering and/or dinner – greatly appreciated indeed!

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn
Secretary and Director at Large

Attachment: OLA Financial Report - January 1 through October 15, 2017

“OLABODMtg10222017” File
Draft Prepared November 9, 2017
Final Prepared December 6, 2017

