

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13
SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thayer Boat House – Otsego Lake
Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 5:00 PM

ATTENDANCE

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

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

Guests: None

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING

1. Treasurer's Report (Pati) – Pati reported that there is \$13,548.53 in the checking account as of May 24, 2018 (see attached report). Many donations were received in memory of Mary McDonough. MMSP to accept Treasurer's report. Pati will be resigning as Treasurer due to her upcoming travel over the next year. Pati discussed this position with Bill Elsey of Springfield who has experience with Quick Books, the accounting software that OLA uses, and he was interested. MMSP to appoint Bill Elsey as OLA Treasurer effective as soon as the bank paperwork can be signed.
2. Membership Report (Pati) – Pati provided a list of current OLA members. Some discussion as to when the OLA membership year should be in effect (i.e. calendar year, July 1 to June 30, etc.) – no decision was made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Paul reported that only 5 NWZ buoys have been installed so far in 2018 due to the BFS barge being in the shop for service and repairs; remaining buoys will be installed as soon as divers and boats are available. Discussion on need for increased patrol by Otsego County Sheriff's Department; Mickie and Scottie will send letter to local newspapers urging increased lake patrols. Debbie will request a meeting with Sheriff Richard Devlin to discuss increased lake patrols. New information signs are needed at 17 locations around the lake; funding is unknown at this time. A photo of the new research buoy taken by Wayne may be published in June on the back cover of the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society - this was possible through one of Kiyoko's contacts.
4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – Paul reported that 12 to 15 inspectors have been trained and will work at the boat launch in Cooperstown this summer; Kim will be the project leader again this year. The inspection program at the Springfield boat launch is still uncertain at this point. Paul showed samples of the spiny water flea from other nearby lakes but, so far, they are not in Otsego Lake.

5. Merchandise (Scottie) – Scottie reported that we are in good shape for merchandise. The prizes for the boat parade are in house and ready.
6. Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (Mickie) – There are some new leaders in 2018; one main issue for this year is to review, and possibly update, the Watershed Management Plan; meetings are scheduled for last Wednesday of the month; Mickie has been attending recent meetings; other Board members are welcome to attend any future meeting(s).
7. Newsletter – Susan O’Handley will again coordinate the spring/summer newsletter – due out in early June. Theme of newsletter will be “Quiet Waters” plus the normal items such as Co-Presidents message, membership application, merchandise for sale, report on the boat parade and any other topics that Board members wish to submit; there are about 20 submissions so far. Theme for fall newsletter will be “Reflections” of past OLA accomplishments. We need to make sure that NYSFOLA receives a hard copy of our newsletters, especially for the newsletter contest at the annual conference.
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. For the period January 1, 2018 to May 17, 2018, there were a total of 383 sessions with 566 pageviews by 314 users. Tim uses the MailChimp tracking program to send out the newsletters and electronic news/updates – approximately 60% of those recipients are opening the e-mails sent. Tim recently established a page that now shows links to every photo page on the website (previously, these photo links were randomly spread out all over the website). Eventually, he will 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. A brief showing of the website on the large screen will be made at the annual meeting in August.
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 spring newsletter (if not mentioned in the fall 2017 newsletter) regarding their future funding for the boat washing station. OCCA will mention boat wash facilities in their newsletter. OCCA will celebrate their 50th Year on August 11th with a garden party at the Mohican Farm; [MMSP](#) for a \$250 sponsorship as an Environmental Educator.
10. Boat Parade (Wayne) – Fifth Annual “We Love Our Lake” Boat Parade will be held on Monday, July 2nd at 2:00 PM starting at Three Mile Point; BFS barge has been reserved and Paul will pilot it; prizes (as noted above) are in house.
11. Annual Meeting (Bob) – Scheduled for Saturday August 11th at Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival pavilion. The Annual Meeting Committee, chaired by Bob again, met at Bob’s house (including a great breakfast prepared by Bob) on February 24th to work out the details and topics. The Festival staff will again set up the pavilion on Friday with some assistance by OLA Board members. Local historian Tom Heitz has agreed to serve as the presenter; Cindy and Will of the Cooperstown Graduate Program are available as needed, especially with photographs. Dale Webster will receive a special OLA award for his 20 years of service with the BFS Volunteer Dive Team, including being the team’s first diver. [MMSP](#) to present the 2018 Lake Citizen Award to OCCA to recognize its 50 years of helping to protect and preserve Otsego Lake.
12. NYSFOLA (Mickie) – The annual conference was held in Lake George on May 4th and 5th this year; Paul, Wayne, Kiyoko, and Tim attended. As usual, it was a great conference with many technical presentations, including several by Kiyoko’s Lake Management graduate students. Kiyoko was also a member of Dr. Bill Harman’s “Lake 101” panel discussing various lake related issues.

13. Springfield 4th of July Celebration (Debbie) – Debbie will coordinate an outside display (merchandise) and an inside display (educational) with help from Dave and Betty VanHuesen and other OLA Board members who are available. Time frame is 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Wednesday.
14. Lakefront Buffer Strip (Mickie) – Annual clean up day is planned in May; may need some rip-rap.

OLD BUSINESS

15. Letter to New Lakeside Home Owners (Paul and Debbie) – Paul and Debbie have prepared a final version (see attachment) of a letter from OLA to be sent to all new lakeside home owners in the Town of Otsego advising them to be aware of, and then follow, local Town and Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee regulations before they undertake any project. The letter could be distributed by the local real estate firms upon the closing of the property. Otsego County can also generate a list of properties that have just sold. The Village of Cooperstown Water Board and the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee need to see the letter. This is a work in progress and a separate letter for the Towns of Springfield and Middlefield are also needed.
16. Letter to Renters and Motel Guests (Wayne and Debbie) – Wayne and Debbie are working on a letter from OLA to be given to renters and motel guests on the lake advising them about boater safety and regulations, no wake zones, invasive species, etc. Debbie has been away for the winter months so she and Wayne will work on it now that Debbie has returned to the lake.
17. New Signage (Paul, Tim, Scottie) – Paul and Tim are working on designing new signage to direct boaters to the boat inspection and washing station in Cooperstown and/or for information on NWZ buoys.
18. OLA Oval Stickers (Mickie) – Mickie received a quote from the Village Printer for \$421.32 for 400 stickers and Tim received a quote from his printer (not sure of the name) for \$280.16 for 400 stickers. However, the NWZ buoy stickers from Tim's printer have faded and not held up very well. **MMSP** to spend \$421.32 for 400 stickers from the Village Printer. My notes indicated 1000 stickers but the motion was for \$421.32 so I assume it was for 400 stickers.
19. What Has Been Happening Around The Lake (Mickie) – Lee Stockwell's former camp just south of Lake View Motel has been purchased and improvements are being made. The NYSDOT has been cleaning out many of the storm water ditches along Route 80 by removing the vegetation from the ditch itself plus large areas of the embankment without hydroseeding to prevent erosion. The Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District has hydroseeding equipment available and has offered to assist the NYSDOT (no response from NYSDOT so far). Wayne will send a letter to the NYSDOT expressing OLA's concerns about increased erosion and sediment loadings into the lake. A copy of the letter will be sent to NYS Senator Jim Seward, OCSWCD, and the Village of Cooperstown.
20. Rain Garden at 123 Lake Street (Pati) – The group planning the new rain garden is applying for grant funding and would like support from OLA. **MMSP** for OLA to support the rain garden project but no funding was authorized at this point.

NEW BUSINESS

21. OLA Officers for 2018 – 2019 (Mickie) – Mickie and Scottie would like to retire as Co-Presidents and let someone else take over. After a long discussion, it was agreed that both should not retire at the same time in order to allow for a smooth transition. Jim has agreed to serve as Vice President and David is thinking about running for President again. This is an unresolved situation at the moment. Directors up for re-election include Paul (Town

of Otsego), David (Town of Middlefield), Bob (Town of Springfield), and Jim (Village of Cooperstown). Tim has moved back into the Village of Cooperstown and could replace Jim as Director/Cooperstown while Doug Willie was mentioned as a possible replacement for David if he becomes President.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting will be held in September or October with the format and location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

22. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn
Secretary and Director at Large

Attachments:

OLA Financial Report – Jan. 1, 2018 thru May 24, 2018
Welcome To Otsego Lake (Letter for new Town of Otsego residents)

“OLABODMtg052418” File
Draft Prepared July 18, 2018
Final Prepared August 1, 2018

Note:

Since the May 24th Board meeting:

MMSP via e-mails (07/12/18) for \$1,120.00 for 8 replacement NWZB signs at \$140 each.

MMSP via e-mails (07/17/18) for \$200.00 for 200 copies of “OLA Welcomes You To Otsego Lake” flyers (actual printing quote was for \$33.68 for 200 copies but motion used incorrect figure).