

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 13, SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES
ANNUAL GATHERING
(Formerly Called Annual Meeting)
Virtual Gathering Via Zoom
Saturday, August 8, 2020 at 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Board of Directors: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), John May (Director/Middlefield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Sarah Coney (Student Director), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special "Thanks" to Gary Kuch for setting up the Zoom meeting – greatly appreciated!

Members/Guests: Approximately 80 including OLA Board Members

OPENING (Started at 9:00 AM)

Welcome by Co-President Jim Howarth

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending OLA's first virtual meeting via Zoom due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the CDC and NYS Dept. of Health guidelines, we were not able to meet in-person as we have normally done in the past. Jim mentioned the various projects and events undertaken by OLA this year and our accomplishments. Jim also mentioned the need to renew your OLA membership or join OLA for the first time. He further mentioned all the OLA merchandise that is for sale (i.e., hats, shirts, vests, tote bags, aprons, blankets, & golf towels) - either on the website or by contacting Scottie Baker.

Treasurer's Report (Betty VanHeusen)

The current balance in the checking account was \$ 7,986.75 as of August 7, 2020.

Membership Report (Betty VanHeusen)

Since January 1, 2020, we have received 29 membership renewals and 8 new members. We normally see a large increase in membership renewals and new members at, or shortly after, the Annual Gathering. Members are reminded that the OLA membership year runs from the Annual Gathering in August to the next Annual Gathering in August.

Lake Citizen Award (Wayne Bunn)

The Lake Citizen Award was presented posthumously to Dr. Ted Peters, Jr. for his decades of leadership and commitment in preserving and protecting Otsego Lake and, most importantly, for his genuine interest and dedication to ensure the health, well-being, water quality, and future of Otsego Lake. Dr. Peters passed away in March of 2020 so his

son Ted and his daughter Melissa accepted the award in his honor. They mentioned that OLA was one of Dr. Peters favorite organizations and that he loved Otsego Lake.

Technical Presentations (SUNY Oneonta Faculty and Students)

Note: For additional information, a complete video of each technical presentation below is available on the OLA website (www.otsegoLakeAssociation.org).

Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy

Professor Kiyoko Yokota discussed that new “contraption” in the middle of the lake opposite Five Mile Point. It is a high technology device that monitors and streams 46 water quality and weather parameters (i.e., water and air temperature, oxygen level, wind speed, etc.) every 30 minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (during the ice-free season) to a data center and is shared with other researchers upon request. The information is used to create a data base for future research and to predict how the lake will react under various conditions. It also provides real-time weather and water conditions for boaters, anglers, and swimmers. It is one of several such buoys currently installed in other lakes in New York and other states.

European Frogbit

Graduate Student Sierra Stickley updated the membership on the recent discovery and spread of this shallow water invasive plant that has been found at the north end of the lake. This plant could change the character of Otsego Lake shorelines and she discussed control measures used in 2020.

Boat Inspections for Aquatic Invasive Species

Graduate Student and Boat Inspection Steward Jared Stauss updated the membership on the boat inspections conducted on the lake. The stewards were funded in part by the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) and the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). The stewards are stationed at the boat launch at the end of Fair Street in Cooperstown and at the Public Landing in Springfield. The Fair Street site also has a hot water/high pressure washer if needed. He also discussed the use of the boat inspection tags provided by OLA that are attached to each boat that is inspected and, in some cases, washed. Due to the great increase in boating activity on the lake this summer, the stewards were very busy.

Cooper Hybrid Pondweed

Graduate Student and Boat Inspection Steward Mary Keefe updated the membership on the new Cooper Hybrid Pondweed that is creating a major challenge to boating on the lake due to the thick weeds now in many areas of the lake. She reported on her monitoring work during the summer and how samples were collected to determine the weed’s DNA by a laboratory in Germany. Mary’s work was funded by OLA under a special contract with the Biological Field Station.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded, and passed at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Summer 2020

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Directors/Middlefield: John May and Peter Regan

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Bob Sutherland

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Student Director: Sarah Coney

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

“OLAAnnualGathering08082021” File

Draft Minutes Prepared March 17, 2021

Final Minutes Prepared January 10, 2022