

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

Otsego Sailing Club Pavilion

Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 8:30 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Ginny Hastings (Winter Update). A special “Thanks” to Mickie, Gary, Doug, Tim, and Kiyoko for planning, coordinating, and setting up the meeting plus all others that helped in any way – greatly appreciated!

Absent: Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), and Brian Hefferon (Student Director).

Guests: About 110 total attendees.

Note: **MMSP** = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

COFFEE AND DONUTS (8:30 to 9:00 AM)

Coffee, donuts, and brownies were available while members and non-member guests socialized, renewed their OLA membership or joined for the first time, purchased OLA merchandise, reviewed posters of lake related subjects prepared by SUNY Oneonta and Cobleskill biology students, purchased a raffle ticket, and bid on the many silent auction items.

OPENING (9:00 AM)

1. Welcome - OLA Co-President Jim Howarth welcomed everyone to OLA’s 2022 Annual Membership Gathering (20th anniversary of OLA’s founding in 2002) and thanked them for attending. He also thanked the Otsego Sailing Club for hosting the gathering at the club’s new pavilion. Wayne Bunn introduced and thanked Bob Einreinhofer as one of the main “spark plugs” in forming OLA in 2002 and serving as its first President.
2. Otsego Sailing Club - Club President Drew Porter gave an informative history of the sailing club and said the club was happy to host the OLA gathering.
3. OLA Mission Statement – Jim read the OLA Mission Statement which is to educate, advocate, and actively participate in protecting the health, beauty, and well-being of Otsego Lake. He also reminded attendees of OLA’s website, plus the silent auction, fund raising raffle (a week’s stay at the Talevi condo in Florida) to benefit the CLMB (research buoy) weather station, an appeal for membership renewals or first time memberships, and purchase of OLA merchandise. Jim thanked all OLA Board members, officers, advisors, members, and friends for their support and hard work.
4. NYSFOLA Award - Jim then announced that OLA had won a first place award for excellence for its Newsletter, “Our Glimmerglass”, at the NYS Federation of Lake Associations during its annual conference in Lake George in April.

5. Presidential Award - Jim then presented the Presidential Award for 2022 to Mary Jean “Scottie” Baker, a long-time member of the OLA Board of Directors and its current Vice President, for her many contributions including manager of the OLA merchandise, editor of Our Glimmerglass, and coordination of the OLA annual boat parade.
6. Election of Officers - Secretary Wayne Bunn then conducted the annual election of officers. Jim Howarth and David Sanford were re-elected for a one year term as Co-Presidents, Paul Lord was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Otsego, Mickie Richtsmeier was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Springfield, Peter Regan was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Middlefield, and Gary Kuch was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Cooperstown.
7. Treasurer’s Report – The current balance in the OLA checking account was \$15,598. OLA is a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization under IRS rules.
8. Membership Report – Approximately 200 newsletters are mailed out twice a year and there are currently 77 paid memberships (before this gathering). Not having an in-person annual gathering has resulted in a large drop of membership renewals and/or new members joining.
9. Lake Citizen Award – Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award for 2022 to Master Diver Lee Ferrara for his 22 years of diving with the BFS Volunteer Dive Team including deploying and retrieving the NWZBs each year, assisting in lake research, cleaning of the Village’s water intake line, and clean-ups of Otsego Lake and the Susquehanna River.

FEATURED SPEAKER

10. Otsego Lake: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow - Holly Waterfield, Research Support Specialist with the SUNY Oneonta’s Biological Field Station, gave an overview covering the past statistics and history of Otsego Lake from its glacial formation 13,000 to 16,000 years ago to the present day. She focused on the water clarity, introduction of non-native species since 1935, the present day Zebra mussels and Quagga mussels, and the recent harmful algae bloom (HAB).

TECHNICAL UPDATES

11. Data Collection – Dr. Kiyoko Yokota (SUNY Oneonta Associate Professor of Biology, BFS Researcher, and Technical Advisor to OLA) gave an update on data collection of the lake including changes in water quality and temperature.
12. Boat Use on Otsego Lake - Bethany Shaw (SUNY Oneonta)
13. Northern Snakehead Fish - Mary Keefe (Aquatic Invasive Species Steward)
14. Diets of Otsego Lake Fishes – Traditional Diet - Kaylee Kiser (SUNY Cobleskill, BFS Summer Intern)
15. Diets of Otsego Lake Fishes – Dresissenid Mussels - Alex Javitz (SUNY Cobleskill, BFS Summer Intern)

FINAL REMARKS

16. Co-President David Sanford gave closing remarks including thanking everyone for attending plus a reminder about renewing membership or joining for the first time, the OLA merchandise for sale, the silent auction, and the raffle.

ADJOURNMENT

17. The gathering was adjourned at approximately 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Summer 2022

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Vice-President: Scottie Baker

Student Director: Brian Hefferon (SUNY Oneonta)

Treasurer: Betty VanHeusen

Webmaster: Tim Pokorny

Secretary: Wayne Bunn

Technical Advisor: Kiyoko Yokota

Directors/Middlefield: Peter Regan, Doug Willies

Legal Advisor: Martin Tillapaugh

Directors/Otsego: Paul Lord and Bill Murdock

Winter Update: Ginny Hastings

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

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Draft Minutes Prepared August 24, 2022

Final Minutes Prepared March 22, 2023