

# OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

## FINAL MINUTES

### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

#### Otsego Sailing Club Pavilion

Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 8:30 AM

#### ATTENDANCE

Present: 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), 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), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Absent: Tom Chase (Director/Otsego), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), and Brian Hefferon (Student Director).

Guests: About 100 total attendees.

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

A special "Thanks" to Mickie, Gary, Doug, Tim, Paul, and Kiyoko for planning, coordinating, and setting up the meeting plus all others that helped in any way – greatly appreciated!

#### 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, bid on the many silent auction items, and viewed Scottie Baker's antique canoe called "Feather" (a rare 1898 wooden paddling/sailing canoe).

#### OPENING (9:00 AM)

1. Welcome - OLA Co-President Jim Howarth welcomed everyone to OLA's 2023 Annual Membership Gathering and thanked them for attending. He also thanked the Otsego Sailing Club for hosting the gathering at the Club's new pavilion.
2. Otsego Sailing Club - Club Commodore Drew Porter gave a brief overview of the sailing club and said the Club was happy to host the OLA gathering. Jim presented a gift to Drew in appreciation.
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 then read a list of OLA accomplishments in 2023. He also reminded attendees of OLA's website, plus the silent auction, 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. 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, Tom Chase was elected for a two year term

as Director/Otsego, Robert Nelson was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Springfield, Doug Willies was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Middlefield, and Martin Tillapaugh was re-elected for a two year term as Director/Cooperstown. The Board of Directors appoints all other OLA positions.

5. Treasurer's Report – The current balance in the OLA checking account was \$25,910.93 (08/01/2023). OLA is a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization under IRS rules. **MMS**P to accept the Treasurer's Report.
6. Membership Report – Betty reminded everyone that the Annual Membership Gathering was the official renewal period and over half of our members were due to renew. Approximately 30 members renewed at the Annual Membership Gathering.

## **TECHNICAL UPDATES**

7. SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cobleskill Students' Scientific Presentations
  - Brynna Beck: Nutrient & Discharge Monitoring of the Otsego Lake Watershed
  - Jack Travis: Behavioral Comparison of Two Distinct Largemouth Bass Populations
  - Lizzy Croft: Quality of Yellow Perch (*Perca flavescens*) Population in Otsego Lake
  - E. J. Holm: Otsego Lake Quagga and Zebra Mussel Populations 2021 – 2023
  - Bradeon Victory: Poster – Spatial Variability of Zooplankton in Otsego Lake
  - Owen Allen: Poster – Analyzing Algae with Bloom Optix AI
  - Dom McClean: Poster – Local Fungi, Slime Molds & Lichens
  - Jessica Krucina: Poster – Rum Hill Birds
8. No Wake Zone Buoys – Paul Lord gave an update on the status of the NWZBs and the importance of respecting their purpose and use.
9. Continuous Lake Monitoring Buoy and HABs – Dr. Kiyoko Yokota (SUNY Oneonta Associate Professor of Biology, BFS Researcher, and OLA Technical Advisor) gave an update on data collection of the lake including changes in water quality and temperature. She also gave an update on the HABs (harmful algae blooms) during 2023.
10. HAB Website – Will Kuss, from the Otsego County Conservation Association, gave a summary of the new Otsego County HABs website which has been developed by various organizations in the County to provide up to date information of the HABs throughout the County.

## **INTERMISSION**

## **AWARDS PRESENTATIONS**

11. Lake Citizen Award – Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award for 2023 to the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee for its decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. It was established by the Village of Cooperstown in 1985 to administer Section 1100 of the NYS Public Health Law as Otsego Lake is the source of water supply for the Village. The Committee consists of two members from the Village and one member each from the Towns of Otsego, Springfield, and Middlefield. The WSC meets monthly to review and approve all on-site wastewater systems within the so-called Zone of Protection of Otsego Lake. The Committee also addresses herbicide and pesticide use, erosion and sediment run-off, and HABs around the lake.

12. Presidential Award – Jim Howarth presented the Presidential Award for 2023 to Doug and Rhonda Willies for their decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. They were charter members of OLA and Doug served as Director from Middlefield on the initial OLA Board of Directors. He is now serving again on the OLA Board of Directors as a Director from Middlefield and was appointed to the Otsego Lake Watershed Supervisory Committee (WSC) in 2020 as the Town of Middlefield representative. Doug has been leading the efforts of the WSC in studying and coordinating the work to understand the cause(s) of the HABs in the lake. Doug and Rhonda are now trained CSLAP volunteers and collected bi-weekly lake water samples during 2023 in support of the proposed NYSDEC 9 Element Plan to address the HABs.
13. NYSFOLA Award – Jim Howarth announced that OLA had won a first-place award for excellence (for the second year in a row) for its Journal (formerly called Newsletter), “Our Glimmerglass”, at the NYS Federation of Lake Associations during its annual conference in Lake George in May.
14. Silent Auction Results – The winners of the silent auction were announced and can pick up and pay for their item(s).

**ADJOURNMENT**

15. The gathering was adjourned at approximately 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

**OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Summer 2023**

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 Tom Chase	Winter Update: Vacant
Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson	
Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch	

“OLAAnnualGathering08122023” File  
 Draft Minutes Prepared January 28, 2024  
 Final Minutes Prepared May 8, 2024