

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP GATHERING

Otsego Sailing Club Pavilion

Saturday, August 10, 2024 at 8:30 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), David Sanford (Co-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Tom Chase (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Brian Hefferon (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Note: Scottie Baker (Vice President) passed away in April 2024.

Guests: About 90 total attendees.

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

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

COFFEE AND BAKED GOODS (8:30 to 9:00 AM)

Coffee and various baked goods 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 biology students and BFS summer interns, and bid on the many silent auction items.

OPENING (9:00 AM)

1. Welcome - OLA Co-President Jim Howarth welcomed everyone to OLA's 2024 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 and presented Commodore Finn Jensen with an OLA gift in appreciation. The Club was happy to host the OLA gathering.
2. OLA Mission Statement – Jim noted OLA's Mission Statement which is to educate, advocate, and actively participate in protecting the health, beauty, and well-being of Otsego Lake. He then reviewed a list of OLA accomplishments in 2024. 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 recognized and thanked all OLA Board members, officers, advisors, members, and friends for their support and hard work.
3. Election of Officers - Secretary Wayne Bunn then conducted the annual election of officers. **MMSP** for Secretary to cast one vote for candidates nominated by Board of Directors. No other nominations were offered from the membership. Jim Howarth was re-elected for a one-year term as President (no candidate(s) for Co-President),

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. The President or Board of Directors appoints all other OLA positions.

4. Treasurer's Report – The current balance in the OLA checking account was reported. OLA is a 501 (c) 3 tax exempt organization under IRS rules. [MMSF](#) to accept the Treasurer's Report.
5. Membership Report – Betty reminded everyone that the year to year Annual Membership Gathering is the official renewal period. Numerous individuals, couples, or families renewed their membership or joined for the first time at the Annual Membership Gathering. Final numbers to be reported later.
6. Lake Citizen Award – Wayne Bunn presented the Lake Citizen Award for 2024 posthumously to Scottie Baker for her decades of involvement with, and the protection of, Otsego Lake. A full description of the award can be found on the OLA website. Scottie's daughter and son were invited to attend the gathering to accept the award on Scottie's behalf but both were out of the country on business. However, Scottie's daughter sent a response thanking OLA for the award and detailing how much Scottie loved Otsego Lake and how much OLA had meant to Scottie over the past 22 years.
7. NYSFOLA Award – Wayne Bunn announced that OLA had won the first-place award for excellence (for the third year in a row) for OLA's "Our Glimmerglass" Journal (formerly called Newsletter) at the annual conference of the NYS Federation of Lake Associations in Lake George in May. OLA was entered in the professional category for middle sized lake associations. It was noted that Scottie Baker was the long-time editor and artistic director of the Journal.
8. Presidential Award – There was no award for 2024.

TECHNICAL UPDATES

9. SUNY Oneonta Biology Students' and BFS Summer Interns' Scientific Presentations
 - Measuring Streams Velocity by Isabella Harnett
 - Otsego Lake Seasonal Algal Succession by Elizabeth DuBois
 - Otsego Lake Fecal Coliform Monitoring by Natalie Legname
 - The above presenters, plus other students and interns, had poster displays for review.
10. No Wake Zone Buoys, Boat Inspections, and BFS Volunteer Dive Team – Paul Lord gave an update on the status of the NWZBs and the importance of respecting their purpose and use, the boat inspection program, and the work of the volunteer dive team.
11. SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station – Dr. Florian Feyda, SUNY Oneonta Professor of Biology and new Director of the BFS, gave a presentation on the purpose of, and research work conducted at, the Biological Field Station over the past 50 years including a question and answer period.
12. State of the Lake and HABS – Dr. Kiyoko Yokota (SUNY Oneonta Associate Professor of Biology, BFS Researcher, and OLA Technical Advisor) gave an update on the state of the lake and the harmful algal blooms so far this summer including a question and answer period.

13. Silent Auction Results – The winners of the silent auction items can pick up and pay for their item(s) after the meeting ends.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Summer 2024

Co-Presidents: Jim Howarth and David Sanford

Directors at Large: Wayne Bunn and Debbie Creedon

Vice-President: Currently Vacant

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: Mickie Richtsmeier (Interim)

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

“OLAAnnualGathering08102024” File

Draft Minutes Prepared August 12, 2024

Final Minutes Prepared September 19, 2024