

Otsego Lake Association Board of Directors' Meeting
September 27, 2008

Members in Attendance: Scottie Baker, Wayne Bunn, Mary Clarke, Ryan Davine, Tom Horvath, Mickie Richtsmeier, Burr Southworth, and Treasurer, Carrie Southworth

The meeting was called to order by President, Wayne Bunn.

Treasurer's Report Our primary account balance as of 9/26/08 is \$7,479.22. Since 8/15/08 there have been total deposits of \$575 and disbursements of \$77.36. The Buffer Strip account has a balance of \$1541.01. A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer's report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Wake Zone Buoys - no report

Cooperstown Boat Inspections - Carl had emailed Wayne that there have been 669 boat launches to date (as compared to 649 last year). He reported total expenses of \$10,800 (of which \$10,000 was underwritten by OCCA). It is planned that the inspectors will work through October. Carl also reported that according to the Biological Field Station, the fish count is up substantially. The bad news is that the zebra mussel population is about to spike, and that we will probably see problems by midsummer next year.

Stone-Lined Ditches - Scottie reported that, according to Sean Mulligan, rip rap has been used on Bissell, Glimmerglen, and Browdy Mountain Roads.

Phosphorus Free Detergent- samples have been given out at OLA meetings and local supermarkets are carrying more p-free products.

Merchandise- Scottie and Mary recommended ordering more bags in the spring.

Otsego Lake Festival- Scottie will attend a meeting next Friday on the fate of the festival. The Festival costs about \$10,000, and is behind financially this year. The first few years of the festival Lou Hagar donated that amount. There was also discussion that many of the same groups participate in both the Earth and Lake Festivals and that it taps funds in April from folks who are asked to donate again to the Lake event in July. The question was raised if there could be a possibility of joining with associations in nearby lakes (such as Canadarago and Goodyear) to have one big festival, not just an Otsego Lake event

Website- Burr is working on a narrative of the Buffer Strip and will continue to update the site with our 2009 meeting schedule.

Law Enforcement- no report, except that the DEC and sheriff have been seen on the lake.

Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee- Carl continues to attend regularly and to email minutes to our Board. Scott Fickbaum also will meet with Wayne at some point.

Otsego 2000 Liaison- Scottie reported that she had attended a meeting last night, and that for now, there won't be any coordination on the sediment project. This is because Otsego 2000 is very involved with the Advocates and the MSG project, wind turbine, and natural gas issues.

OCCA- no new information.

Smart Steps- Ryan reported that he has been speaking with teachers in the Environmental Science Class and Participation in Government class at Cooperstown Central about using the Smart Steps Booklet and/or attending OLA meetings. Mickie reported that Lake and Valley Garden Club is taking Smart Steps to the Garden Club of America zone meeting and will incorporate the publication into some of its' educational projects.

Lake Front Buffer Strip- boardwalk materials have been received at BOCES and will be built over the winter. Plans are being formulated for spring work in the garden and a dedication ceremony.

Springfield Public Landing Buffer Strip- Paul had emailed Dan Rosen. Mary said that she felt it was important to deal with the run-off from the steep driveway. After discussion, the board agreed to put this project on hold until a proper review of the site was done. (see addendum to minutes)

Mud Plume Photography- there were no entries in our photo contest. We will publicize the project better and continue to offer a \$250 prize next season.

NYS Rt. 80 Adopt -A -Highway - Wayne will contact DOT about this. Sue Silvernail is also interested in helping.

Newsletter- Paul is working on this, and Tom has several articles ready.

OLD BUSINESS

Comments on August 16th Informational Meeting - There was a consensus that we'd had a good turn-out. It was questioned whether the venue was large enough, but everyone agreed that it was a very appealing and special place. We also discussed why our membership was down. We agreed that getting our newsletter back up and going will increase our visibility. We also will look into doing the little informational blurbs in the Pennysaver again.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion about Possible OLA Involvement in proposed subdivisions and/or major projects- the unanimous consensus was that the mission of OLA was primarily educational and that we should continue this without taking a stand on specific projects.

Community Foundation for South Central New York- Scottie attended a meeting and informed us of possible funding via grants from this philanthropic foundation. We discussed possible projects and will pursue this further.

Calendar for Next Year:

Annual Meeting - June 20, 2009 (third Saturday in June)

Informational Meeting - August 15, 2009 (third Saturday in August)

Tentative Board of Directors Meetings Saturday, February 7, 2009 (goal to get membership letters ready for March mailing)

Saturday, April 4, 2009

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mickie Richtsmeier

Addendum to minutes: (emailed by board member, Paul Lord regarding the proposed buffer strip at the Springfield Landing): The run-off from the road/driveway is certainly a part of the proposal. Scott Fickbohm of SWCD and I have visited the location several times. The site has been studied at times with running water and at times with low water. Scott's folks have worked with the Town of Springfield highway department on the ditches and have made several recommendations that support our proposal. We need to move on with this. We don't need it tabled for more study.

I propose that we have a meeting involving Scott, Mary, Mickie, Suzanne, Dan and myself to ensure Dan moves the issue forward.