

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13
SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tillapaugh Funeral Home - Cooperstown
Saturday, February 10, 2018 at 9:00 AM

ATTENDANCE

Present: Mickie Richtsmeier (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Co-President), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Pati Grady (Treasurer and Director/Springfield), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), David Sanford (Director/Middlefield), John May (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Tim Pokorny (Webmaster), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Bob Sutherland (Director/Springfield), Jim Howarth (Director/Cooperstown), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), and Amanda May (Consultant).

Guests: None

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING

1. Treasurer's Report (Pati) – Pati reported that there is \$14,785.42 in the checking account as of February 9, 2018 (see attached report). MMSP to accept Treasurer's report.
2. Membership Report (Pati) – Membership roster to be updated shortly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Paul reported via e-mail that they are having a hard time buying new spare buoys directly from Taylor Made Products in Johnstown NY; Taylor wants buoys purchased through local dealers. Wayne will check with West Marine in Latham NY to see if they sell the buoys and if they can be picked up at the store to avoid a shipping charge.
4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – There was a meeting with Village Officials in the fall of 2017 regarding inspectors and data entry. Specific details to be worked out. Funding may be needed for 2018 boating season.
5. Merchandise (Scottie) – Aprons, denim shirts, and blue caps have been sold out. Scottie will inventory our supply of items and report back later.
6. Otsego County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (Mickie) – Goodyear Lake has received a \$75,000 grant for septic system inspections. Mickie, Jim, or Kiyoko will try to attend future meetings (scheduled for last Wednesday of the month); Mickie has been attending recent meetings.
7. Newsletter – Susan O'Handley will again coordinate the spring newsletter. Theme of newsletter will be "Quiet Waters" plus the normal items such as Co-Presidents message, membership application, merchandise for sale, report on the boat parade and any other topics that Board members wish to submit. Submit all articles to Scottie no later than May 15th.

8. Website (Tim) – Everything is up to date and OK. Tim uses Google Analytics to track OLA website usage to determine how many “hits” are made on the website. For the period January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017, there were a total of 1041 sessions with 1404 pageviews by 814 users. Tim uses the MailChimp tracking program to send out the newsletters and electronic news/updates – approximately 60% of those recipients are opening the e-mails sent. Tim recently established a page that now shows links to every photo page on the website (previously, these photo links were randomly spread out all over the website). Eventually, he will link the icons/photos that appear on the right side of the website to information/links on boating, fishing, wildlife, and parks on/near the lake.
9. Coordination with Other Organizations: OCCA, Otsego 2000, and OLT (Board) – Mickie and Scottie will continue to work with these organizations; need to mention Otsego 2000 in OLA spring newsletter (if not mentioned in the fall 2017 newsletter) regarding their future funding for the boat washing station.
10. Boat Parade (Wayne) – Fifth Annual “We Love Our Lake” Boat Parade will be held around the 4th of July holiday which falls on a Wednesday in 2018. The Boat Parade Committee, to be chaired by Wayne again, will decide the specific date and time. Mickie has the names of some new people who would like to be on the Boat Parade Committee.
11. Annual Meeting (Bob) – Scheduled for August 11, 2018 at Glimmerglass (Opera) Festival pavilion. The Annual Meeting Committee, to be chaired by Bob again, will meet shortly to work out the details and topics. Suggested dates to meet at Bob’s house, where Bob will prepare a breakfast for all who attend, are February 17th, February 24th, or March 3rd. A sign-up sheet with these three dates was passed around the table.
12. NYSFOLA (Mickie) – The annual conference will be held on May 4th and 5th, 2018 in Lake George this year. **MMSP** for \$100 for annual dues. **MMSP** for reimbursement of registration fee for any OLA Board member who wishes to attend (does not include any mileage reimbursement or lodging costs).
13. Earth Festival (Mickie) – Planned for Saturday April 21, 2018 at Milford Central School from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. **MMSP** for \$25 registration fee for OLA display. John, Martin, and Tim (maybe) will try to attend. Scottie will drop off and pick up merchandise but will not be able to stay during the day.

OLD BUSINESS

14. Water Quality Monitoring Buoy Off Five Mile Point (Kiyoko) – There was a discussion about adding a link to the OLA website to allow users to donate funding for this project. However, this may be somewhat complicated according to Kiyoko. No decision was made regarding this item.
15. Letter to New Lakeside Home Owners (Paul and Debbie) – Paul and Debbie are working on a letter from OLA to be sent to all new lakeside home owners around Otsego Lake advising them to be aware of, and then follow, local Town regulations before they undertake any project. The letter could be distributed by the local real estate firms upon the closing of the property. Otsego County can also generate a list of properties that have just sold. David mentioned that the Village of Cooperstown has very specific regulations regarding septic systems that should be mentioned in the letter. This is a work in progress.
16. Letter to Renters and Motel Guests (Wayne and Debbie) – Wayne and Debbie are working on a letter from OLA to be given to renters and motel guests on the lake advising them about boater safety and regulations, no wake zones, invasive species, etc. Debbie is away for the winter months so she and Wayne will work on it when Debbie returns to the lake in May.

17. What Has Been Happening Around The Lake (Mickie) – Marty Patton recently purchased the former Bissell property (two large brown camps just north of Camp Mohican) and has cut numerous trees along the shore line. He and the Town of Otsego Planning Board are in discussions about what is allowed and what is not allowed.
18. Socioeconomic Implications of Losing Lake Ice (Board) – As a follow up to Kiyoko's recent request for information on climate change affecting the ice on Otsego Lake, the Board referred her to local historian Tom Heitz and local resident Ellen Tillapaugh.
19. Coordination with Cooperstown Elementary School (Mickie and Scottie) – Mickie and Scottie met with personnel at the Cooperstown Elementary School and followed up with additional materials on environmental programs concerning Otsego Lake. So far, there has been no response from the school personnel – project on hold.

NEW BUSINESS

20. Signage for Boat Launch Site (Mickie) – There was a long discussion about the existing signs on Lake Street and at the boat launch site at the end of Fair Street in Cooperstown. These signs need to be updated and replaced. Paul and Martin will work with the Village to see what will be allowed and who will pay for them.
21. Lake and Valley Garden Club Zone Meeting (Mickie) – The Garden Club of America will hold its Zone meeting in Cooperstown on May 15 – 17, 2018 which will feature the buffer strip project at Lakefront Park - the national contest winner a few years ago. About 100 members are expected to attend. **MMSP** for \$500 to purchase 20 books from the University (?) of Minnesota on how to implement a lakeside buffer strip. This book was used as a guide in designing and implementing the local buffer strip. The books would be sold to interested garden club members.
22. OLA Oval Stickers (Mickie) – Our supply of the OLA oval stickers is exhausted and we need to purchase new ones. The stickers were made by The Village Printer in Oneonta. Mickie will contact them for pricing.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

23. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 10, 2018 at 5:00 PM. Location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT

24. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn
Secretary and Director at Large

Attachment: OLA Financial Report - October 15, 2017 thru February 9, 2018

“OLABODMtg021018” File
Draft Prepared March 9, 2018
Final Prepared March 28, 2018

Note: On March 5th, **MMSP** (via e-mail) for \$1100 for new merchandise for upcoming 2018 events.