

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Virtual via Zoom

Saturday, March 5, 2022 at 10:00 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), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Ginny Hastings (Winter Update), Sarah Coney (Student Director), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor). A special “Thanks” to Gary for setting up and hosting the meeting – greatly appreciated!

Absent: Scottie Baker (Vice-President), William Murdock (Director/Otsego), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Guests: Joan Bunn

Note: MMSP = Motion Made, Seconded, and Passed

OPENING (Started at 10:00 AM)

1. Treasurer’s Report (Betty) - Current balance in Checking Account = \$15,571.52 (was \$14,803.52 at BOD meeting on 10/02/2021). The IRS 501 (c) 3 Tax Exempt status has finally appeared as up to date on the IRS website (however, the wording is confusing). The required IRS Form 990 e-postcard has been completed and filed. Expenses were \$600 for the rental of the Hascup barge (volunteer dive team “buoy fest”), \$100 for NYSFOLA annual dues, and \$1,195 for the Fall newsletter. There was a major problem with the printing and distribution of the Fall 2021 newsletter, which was eventually resolved without additional expense, but it was not received until mid-December resulting in revenue loss from holiday merchandise sales and membership renewals.

Reminder: Filing of Form 990 for IRS 501 (c) 3 is due by April 15th each year.

2. Membership Report (Betty) – Since the last BOD meeting on 10/02/2021, there have been 20 membership renewals and 9 new memberships. Not having an in-person annual gathering has resulted in a large drop of membership renewals and/or new members joining. Discussion on membership drive (separate mailing, campaign like Jeff Reynolds did a few years ago, student membership, newsletters to high school, libraries, etc.). A membership committee (Jim, Betty, Wayne, and Joan) was formed to explore various ideas.

NORMAL ITEMS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys (NWZB), Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – The BFS barge, the “Anodontoides”, was taken out of service in September 2021 due to age and structural failure of the pontoons. SUNY Oneonta has budgeted \$30,000 for new pontoons which have been ordered but not expected to be received until the fall of 2022. The spring 2022 “buoy fest” will again use five of the BFS’s small boats plus rent Hascup’s barge. MMSP to rent Hascup’s barge for two days for a total amount not to exceed \$800. The BFS barge will not be available for the OLA boat parade this summer.

4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – The Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) Watershed Steward Program (WSP) was recently awarded a new \$2.2 million contract by NYSDEC and will be administering the CRISP WSP for the next 5 years. SUNY Oneonta has contracted with NYSDEC to provide boat steward and angler inspection training for OLA and others. There is no direct expense to OLA. This program is used to fund the boat stewards used on Otsego Lake. A portable boat washer is planned for this summer. Canadarago Lake needs 4 stewards, but funding is only available for 1.5 positions per the new contract. Canadarago Lake has recently discovered a water chestnut problem at the southerly end of the lake – very swampy area. Cooperstown is planning to hire 1 steward. The approximate budget for 1 steward is \$20,000 with a starting salary of \$18 per hour with raises.
5. New Student Director – Sarah has announced that she has accepted a new position as the Aquatic Invasive Species Manager for CRISP and will be resigning as the Student Director of OLA. **MMSP** thanking Sarah for her years of working with OLA, Paul, and the BFS Volunteer Dive Team to benefit Otsego Lake. She will be missed. Paul has recommended that Brian Hefferon, a SUNY Oneonta graduate student in biology, be named as the new OLA Student Director. **MMSP** that Brian Hefferon is appointed as the new OLA Student Director effective immediately.
6. Merchandise (Scottie) – All items in stock and OK at this point. No new orders needed due to the problem with the late arrival of the Fall 2021 newsletter. Again, not having an in-person annual gathering has caused a large drop in sales.
7. Newsletter (Scottie) - Susan O’Handley will again coordinate, print, and mail the Spring 2022 newsletter - format will be basically the same as Fall 2021 newsletter with actual mailing planned for about June 1st. All draft articles and photos should be submitted to Scottie and Susan by May 15th. Theme for the newsletter will be “We Love Our Lake”. Potential articles include: Co-Presidents’ message (Jim & David), history of Cooperstown Lakefront buffer strip (Mickie), merchandise for sale (Scottie), annual membership gathering (Mickie & Gary), boat parade (Wayne), CLMB update (Kiyoko), history of Lake Citizen Award, funny stories about the lake (Board members), what we could do if we had more money (Board members), photographs, application for membership, and fun facts (fillers) about the lake. Goal is to expand the mailing list to include other groups. The Spring 2022 newsletter will be sent via e-mail and hard copy. A draft copy of the newsletter will be sent to all BOD members for review and comments.
8. Website (Tim) – Website is being updated to be a secure website.
9. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members.
10. Coordination with Other Organizations - This is an on-going process with OCCA, Otsego 2000, and Otsego Land Trust as needed.
11. Boat Parade (Wayne) - OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade will be held again this summer. Wayne will e-mail the boat parade committee in the near future to determine date, time, location, etc. A lead boat will be needed since the BFS barge is out of service. We hope to award prizes and hand out candy again this year.
12. Annual Membership Gathering 2022 (Mickie & Gary) - The Annual Membership Gathering (formerly called Annual Membership Meeting) will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM. Planning committee will consist of Mickie, Gary, Doug, Scottie, and Bill. We are hoping for an in-person gathering with the Otsego Sailing Club as the first-choice venue, the Five Mile Point Condominium Pavilion as the second-choice venue, and the Fairy Spring Pavilion as the third-choice venue. The Cooperstown

Country Club is not an option at this point. Main topic will be “History/Change of Otsego Lake” by Holly Waterfield of the BFS Main Lab plus the Lake Citizen Award and scientific updates by Paul, Kiyoko, and students of SUNY Oneonta. [Note: During March of 2022, the Otsego Sailing Club granted permission for OLA to use their new pavilion for our Annual Membership Gathering.]

13. NYSFOLA - The 2022 annual conference will be an in-person event in the Village of Lake George on April 29th and 30th. Wayne has submitted the OLA Fall 2021 newsletter to NYSFOLA for entry in their 2022 annual newsletter contest – both in the hard copy category and in the digital category. Registration is now open for the 2022 annual conference. **MMSP** for OLA to reimburse Board members for vehicle mileage expenses if they attend the annual conference (use of IRS mileage rate of \$0.14 per mile for charitable organizations for 2022 is easiest way to determine such reimbursement). This reimbursement is in addition to the OLA reimbursement for registration fees (but not hotel expenses) for Board members who attend the annual conference.
14. E-Mail Motions by OLA Board - The Board still needs to draft a change to the OLA By-Laws to allow passing motions via e-mails. Paul and Mickie have presented preliminary thoughts and will coordinate the change at a future Board meeting.
15. Scientific Updates (Kiyoko) – Zebra mussel traps (2 types) have been placed at several locations on the lake with SUNY Oneonta students collecting the mussels. The current taped narrative about Otsego Lake onboard the Glimmerglass Queen tour boat is pre-Zebra Mussels and needs to be updated. Paul and Kiyoko will meet with Paula (owner/operator) to discuss and update the narrative.
16. Goodyear Swamp Rehabilitation (Paul) – This project is “moving forward” (has been funded by NYS) but Otsego County needs to sign off on the Memorandum of Understanding since other local projects are also involved. An item about this should be included in the Spring 2022 newsletter.
17. Winter Update (Ginny) – Ginny is working on the 2022 edition of the Otsego Lake Winter Update. A draft of the Update will be e-mailed to Board members for review and comment before being e-mailed to the OLA membership. Ginny also plans to purchase and donate various “lake books” to area libraries with assistance from Betty.
18. Lakefront Buffer Strip (Mickie) – More help (church groups, Village, OLA, etc.) is needed to help maintain the fast-growing buffer strip. A landscape architect has been hired to develop a plan and scope of work. The Lake and Valley Garden Club has requested funding from the National Garden Club. BOCES has been a big help with usually about 26 students involved (need 1 adult supervision for each 2 students). Money will be needed later on to pay for lunch and beverages. A future weekday date will be scheduled for the annual maintenance. Only a ½ truck load of riprap is now needed every 2 years compared with 17 truck loads of gravel in the past. The Springfield Buffer Strip also needs maintenance work.
19. Lake Clean Up Day (Board) – A large barge or boat is needed to haul away the material (some concern if Hascup’s barge is large enough to handle all the material). Potential date would be after the Annual Membership Gathering to allow time to advertise the event.
20. Stagliano’s “Camp” Construction (Betty) – Betty would like to draft a friendly letter to the Town of Otsego Supervisor with a copy to the Town Zoning Board of Appeals, Town Planning Board, and Town Zoning Enforcement Officer indicating OLA’s support for enforcement of the Town’s Land Use Laws as it relates to Otsego Lake. Betty will draft a letter and e-mail it to Board members for review and comment before it is e-mailed to the Town Officials.

NEW ITEMS

- 21. Buffer in a Bag (Paul) – The NYSDEC is offering a program called “Buffer in a Bag” in which a landowner with a stream or lakefront on their property can apply for a bag of 25 young bare root trees to plant as a buffer to help prevent soil erosion into the stream or lake. There is no charge or fee for the trees, but the application must be submitted to NYSDEC by April 11, 2022. Paul will arrange for a copy of the NYSDEC announcement to e-mailed to the OLA membership with a follow-up article in the Spring 2022 newsletter. [Note: Wayne submitted an application in early March, but a notice came back from NYSDEC indicating that the allocation of trees for 2022 was already “sold out”.]
- 22. Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed (Board) - It was noted at the BOD meeting that 2022 is the 25th Anniversary of the creation of “A Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed” - initially started in 1997 and formally adopted in April 1998 by the three Towns and the Village which surround Otsego Lake. This should be noted in the 2022 Spring newsletter. Robert will contact The Freeman’s Journal to see if they will publish a short article about the Plan.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

- 23. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting will be scheduled by Jim for some time in April or May before the 2022 Spring newsletter is published on June 1st.

ADJOURNMENT

- 24. **MMS**P to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

None

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Spring 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 | |