

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, March 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Virtual Via Zoom

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (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), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), Brian Hefferon (Student Director), and Ginny Hastings (Winter Update).

Absent: David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Note: William Murdock (Director/Otsego) resigned in February 2023.

Guests: Joan Bunn

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

A special "Thanks" to Brian for setting up and hosting the meeting – greatly appreciated!

OPENING (Started at 10:00 AM)

Jim welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Secretary declared that a quorum was present.

1. Treasurer's Report (Betty) - Current balance in Checking Account = \$23,177.13 as of March 11, 2023. Major expense was \$470 for CSLAP training at upcoming NYSFOLA conference. OLA is holding \$2,000 in reserve for previously authorized contribution for Goodyear Swamp boardwalk once actual construction starts. Betty has filed the annual IRS Form 990 to maintain OLA's Federal tax exempt status.
2. Membership Report (Betty) – Received 144 membership renewals since last BOD meeting or Annual Gathering. Current mailing list for Journal has 239 addresses; current e-mail list for Journal and announcements has 180 addresses. Local libraries (Cooperstown, Springfield, Cherry Valley, and Hartwick) will be added to mailing list. Jim will update local newspapers and motels. Wayne has volunteered to draft an e-mail document to encourage all people on the e-mail list to renew their membership or join for the first time.

NORMAL ITEMS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys (NWZB), Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – Installation of the NWZBs for Lakefront and Springfield Landing is scheduled for March 25th. Installation of the CLMB is scheduled for April 1st or 2nd depending on availability of divers, tenders, and boat drivers. The BFS barge, the "Anodontoides", is scheduled to be back in the water, with a new 90 HP outboard motor, before April 1st. A new extension slide and winch is needed to assist with retrieving the CLMB. **MMSP** for \$600 for the slide and winch. A new secretary is still needed at the Otsego County Soil and Water Conservation District office to coordinate expenses for the BFS

volunteer dive team. This is holding up payment of expenses. **MMSP** for \$1,600 for equipment and supplies for the BFS volunteer dive team.

4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – This year will be the 2nd year in a 5-year contract between NYSDEC and SUNY Oneonta for the CRISP WSP; 18 stewards have been hired for 2023. The Village of Cooperstown also plans to hire at least 1 steward. Springfield Landing has a new manager this year to be in charge of boat inspections and lifeguards will be trained as boat stewards. A \$30,000 portable boat washer was purchased in 2022 to wash boats at Lake Front and other locations. There are 3 major bass tournaments each summer (1 in the early season, 1 in the late season, and 1 in mid-season). Some boats arrive before the stewards are on duty. There is generally no advance notice of the bass tournaments. The General Clinton Canoe Regatta in May will be the first use of the portable boat washer this year.
5. HABs, CSLAP, and Scientific Updates (Doug, Jim, Kiyoko) – Cooperstown Rotary has donated money to purchase temperature equipment for the CLMB and a \$2,000 grant is pending for additional support. The NYSDEC's Nine Element (9E) Watershed Plan for HABs is a lengthy process with no "concrete" solution to the HABs. "The Plan for the Management of the Otsego Lake Watershed" is due for an update as part of the 9E Plan and then applications for grants will be submitted. The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), to be started on Otsego Lake in 2023, is a long-term water quality monitoring program that helps to identify water quality issues, detect seasonal and long-term patterns, and inform volunteers and lake residents about conditions in their lake. The BFS plans to acquire new lake sampling and laboratory equipment and certification this year. In addition, NYSDEC will be taking their own lake samples this year as part of the program. Kiyoko and Jim worked very hard to gather and submit the paperwork to NYSFOLA in order to be accepted into the CSLAP program. Doug and his wife Rhonda and Peter have registered for the CSLAP training on May 6th at the NYSFOLA annual conference this year. OLA will prepare a press release, with NYSDOH input, on HABs with an "outline" to give guidance to lake residents on what to look for and where to get information.
6. Merchandise (Scottie) – **MMSP** for \$675 for new merchandise to re-stock various items.
7. Newsletter (Scottie) – Normal input needed for next Journal. Deadline is May 15th with actual mailing planned for June 1st +/-.
8. Website (Tim) – See Tim's e-mail dated 03/07/2023 regarding statistics on OLA website. Usage was up during the summer of 2022 (most likely due to HABs).
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 this summer on July 3rd at 3:00 PM. The BFS barge, the "Anodontoides", will be used as the lead boat and Wayne's pontoon boat will be used as the chase boat with Tim as the official photographer. Candy will be handed out to all boaters and prizes will be awarded to several winners (number of winners and specific prizes to be determined later). A theme will be determined this spring. The Boat Parade Committee will continue its work to finalize the details.
12. Annual Membership Gathering 2023 (Mickie & Robert) - The Annual Membership Gathering (formerly called Annual Membership Meeting) will be held at the Otsego Sailing Club on Saturday, August 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM with coffee and donuts at 8:30 AM. Planning committee will consist of Mickie, Robert, Scottie, Doug, Debbie,

Tim, and Ginny. Main topic will probably be on the HABs. Other items will be election of officers, the Lake Citizen Award, scientific updates by Paul, Kiyoko, and students of SUNY Oneonta plus the silent auction.

13. Lake Citizen Award (Wayne) – The 2023 recipient will be determined before the Annual Gathering.
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. Lakefront Buffer Strip (Mickie) – The annual clean up day is scheduled for May 31st with June 1st as the rain date. Students from BOCES arrive at 9:30 AM with work details to be coordinated by Paul. New riprap may be needed (NYSDEC permit is pending). All volunteers are welcome to help.
16. Lake Clean Up Day (Debbie) – This event is scheduled for Saturday, July 15th from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. The BFS barge, the “Anodontoides”, and 3 or 4 of their Jon boats will be used. The BFS will ask the summer interns to help plus volunteers from OLA. The Village of Cooperstown has agreed to cover the cost of disposal. Drop-off of material will probably be at Three Mile Point. Debbie is coordinating the project.
17. Fund Raising (Jim) – Some discussion of applying for various grants including one from the Community Foundation of Otsego County.
18. County Sheriff’s Marine Patrol (Jim)– Due to a lack of lake patrols by the County Sheriff’s Marine Patrol, OLA may request a meeting with Sheriff Devlin.
19. Publicity (Jim) – Jim will prepare periodic press releases on various lake-related subjects and submit to The Freeman’s Journal and The Daily Star for publication.
20. Ditching (Paul) – Mickie, Scottie, and Susan O’Handley created a color flyer to promote the stone lining of storm water ditches along the State and County highways along the lake. This flyer will be an insert in the spring 2023 Journal. Future grant applications to purchase catch basins and ditching materials plus the training of highway crews was discussed. All highway superintendents must “buy in” to the process to make it work.

NEW ITEMS

21. Vacancy for Director from Town of Otsego (Board) – Given the resignation of William Murdock, there is a vacancy for a Director from the Town of Otsego. In accordance with the OLA By-Laws, the Board of Directors can appoint a Director now to fill the vacancy or wait until the elections at the Annual Gathering. The following persons were mentioned as possible candidates: Corina Franck, David Sanford, Tom Chase, Kathy Chase, Tim Pokorny, and Patricia Kennedy. Paul suggested a multiple person ballot at the Annual Gathering. Wayne will contact these people to see if they are interested in serving on the OLA Board. The following positions are up for election at the Annual Gathering: President/Co-Presidents, Director/Otsego (formerly held by William but currently vacant), Director/Springfield (currently held by Robert), Director/Middlefield (currently held by Doug), Director/Cooperstown (currently held by Martin).
22. Immediate Past President Position (Board) – There was a discussion to create a new position of Immediate Past President/Co-President(s) on the Board of Directors to take advantage of the experience of the President (or Co-President(s)) who is (are) rotating out of that office. **MMSP** to create the new position of Immediate Past President/Co-President(s). An amendment to the By-Laws will be necessary at the Annual Gathering to create this new position.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

23. Date for Next Board Meeting – The next OLA Board meeting, including location and time, will be scheduled by the Co-Presidents via e-mail.

ADJOURNMENT

24. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at approximately 11:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETINGS

MMSP on 02/19/2023 for OLA to pay for Ginny Hastings' registration fee at NYSFOLA Conference in May 2023.

MMSP on 02/21/2023 authorizing \$470 for CSLAP registration fee and training at NYSFOLA Conference in May 2023.

MMSP on 03/21/2023 to hold OLA Annual Gathering at the Otsego Sailing Club on August 12, 2023 at 9:00 AM.

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Winter 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 (Vacant)

Winter Update: Ginny Hastings

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch

"OLABODMtg03112023 File

Draft Minutes - March 22, 2023

Final Minutes – April 16, 2023