

OTSEGO LAKE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 13

SPRINGFIELD CENTER NY 13468

FINAL MINUTES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 8:30 AM

2 Lake Street, Cooperstown NY

ATTENDANCE

Present: Jim Howarth (Co-President), Betty VanHeusen (Treasurer), Wayne Bunn (Secretary and Director at Large), Paul Lord (Director/Otsego), Tom Chase (Director/Otsego), Mickie Richtsmeier (Director/Springfield), Peter Regan (Director/Middlefield), Doug Willies (Director/Middlefield), Debbie Creedon (Director at Large), and Kiyoko Yokota (Technical Advisor).

Absent: David Sanford (Co-President), Scottie Baker (Vice-President), Robert Nelson (Director/Springfield), Martin Tillapaugh (Director/Cooperstown and Legal Advisor), Gary Kuch (Director/Cooperstown), Brian Hefferon (Student Director), and Tim Pokorny (Webmaster).

Note: Ginny Hastings (Winter Update) resigned in fall 2023.

Guests: None

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

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

OPENING (Started at 8:30 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 = \$27,447.24; June bank statement = \$27,903; March BOD meeting = \$24,735. **MMSP** for \$500 for BFS Volunteer Dive Team for miscellaneous expenses.
2. Membership Report (Betty) – 11 renewals and 8 new members this fall.

NORMAL ITEMS

3. No Wake Zone Buoys (NWZB), Signs, and Volunteer Dive Team (Paul) – New manager (volunteers with dive team) and new clerk at Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD); "bad times" should be behind us; 2023 was the year for the "big" cylinder inspections; will be requesting \$1,500 in January 2024 to be deposited with SWCD; BFS barge ("Anodontoides") is out of the water for deck replacement; Hascup barge is on call for fall NWZ buoyfest and removal of CLMB; dive team currently consists of 3 experienced divers and 6 +/- young divers plus tenders. **MMSP** for \$700 for Hascup's barge for NWZ buoyfest and CLMB removal.
4. Boat Inspections / Boat Washing Station (Paul) – Inspection stewards are done for 2023 (Labor Day weekend was last day); team leaders are closing down self-cleaning stations at Brookwood Point and Canoe & Kayak; college's self-cleaning stations will remain operational. OLA will apply for a grant from NYSDEC for boat washing station equipment. OLA (Mickie, Robert, & Betty) will meet with the Town of Springfield Town Board and/or individuals regarding boat inspections.

5. HABs and Scientific Updates (Doug, Jim, Kiyoko) – Some local HABs in late summer; phone-based “microscope” was used on site to analyze for cyanobacteria (not toxins); not as bad as 2022; flat, white foam is not good; surface foam accumulations from Langmuir circulation (aka wind lanes) may contain cyanobacteria.
6. CSLAP (Doug, Jim, Kiyoko) - Doug, Rhonda, and Kiyoko collected lake samples on 8 different days in 2023; having Kiyoko on board allowed for collection of extra data; NYSDEC also collected samples; sampling will start again after ice-out in 2024.
7. Merchandise (Scottie) – **MMSP** for \$1,500 for new merchandise to re-stock inventory.
8. Journal (Scottie) – Normal input needed for next Journal; deadline is October 15th.
9. Website (Tim) – See Tim’s e-mail.
10. Facebook (Debbie) - Facebook is up to date; need to post request for more paid members.
11. Coordination with Other Organizations - This is an on-going process with OCCA, Otsego 2000, and Otsego Land Trust as needed.
12. Boat Parade (Wayne) - OLA’s Annual “We Love Our Lake” Decorated Boat Parade was held on July 3rd at 3:00 PM; see separate summary report dated July 16, 2023.
13. Annual Membership Gathering 2023 (Mickie & Robert, others) - The Annual Membership Gathering (formerly called Annual Membership Meeting) was held at the Otsego Sailing Club on Saturday, August 12, 2023; see separate minutes for details.
14. Lake Clean Up Day (Debbie) – Was held on July 15th; all went well; next year, junk should be marked with orange or pink ribbon to better identify what is to be collected.
15. Ditching (Paul, Mickie, Scottie) – The Freeman’s Journal has offered to include the Fix The Ditch brochure in a future print edition (\$250 in 2023); decision to delay this until 2024.

NEW ITEMS

16. Comprehensive Lake Management Plan (Doug & Jim) – Doug and Rhonda paid for much of the 2023 sampling items; **MMSP** for pass through of money to OLA for a tax deduction; Towns contributed \$5,000 each for scientific and engineering support; **MMSP** for \$10,000 for support of CSLAP expenses in 2024 to cover certified laboratory testing; estimated funding needed for 2024 includes \$72,000 for laboratory analysis and \$21,000 for radar-based stream flow equipment; **MMSP** for OLA to apply for a grant from Clark Foundation for radar-based stream flow equipment; gross receipts with a 3 year running average above \$50,000 requires a more detailed annual report to IRS to maintain OLA’s 501 (c) 3 status; Community Foundation of Otsego County along with OLA, O2000, and OCCA to provide input in how funding is spent.
17. Official Length of Otsego Lake (Board) – Many questions about the official length of Otsego Lake; discussion to be continued in 2024.
18. Lakefront Buffer Strip (Mickie) – Village has authorized \$5,000 for 2024 maintenance; OLA and Lake and Valley Garden Club may fund new, updated signs; OLA and Garden Club may apply to Community Foundation of Otsego County for funding; annual OLA and Garden Club work day with BOCES will be scheduled for 2024; article on buffer strip needed for publication in The Freeman’s Journal in spring 2024.

19. Letter to NYSDOT on Route 80 Embankment Failure (Board) – Betty has drafted a letter to NYSDOT questioning their lack of local input on the maintenance and repair of Route 80, both before and after the embankment failure in July 2023. **MMSP** for Betty to send the letter to NYSDOT.

NEXT BOARD MEETING

20. Date for Next Board Meeting – The date, time, and location of the next OLA Board meeting will be determined by the Co-Presidents and e-mailed to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

21. **MMSP** to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Wayne Bunn, Secretary

MOTIONS PASSED VIA E-MAILS SINCE LAST BOARD MEETING

None

OLA BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Fall 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 Tom Chase

Winter Update: Position Open

Directors/Springfield: Mickie Richtsmeier and Robert Nelson

Directors/Cooperstown: Martin Tillapaugh and Gary Kuch