

Minutes of OLA General Meeting, August 28, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President Mona Lincoln. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

The Secretary read the minutes taken by June Wellman at the July meeting. They were approved as read

The Treasurer read her report and explained expenditures and other items. Her report was approved.

Mona advised members that Ranger Robert Coscomb will be our speaker today. He will give a lecture on local hiking trails. Since Kathy Lansing is absent, there will be no report on the Master Plan committee. Information on the committee meeting will be posted on our website soon.

Committee reports: Sharon explained that the Board has discussed future fundraisers and members will be apprised in the Spring letter and at the May meeting. She also told members that the Board has voted to offer a free Otter Lake Memories to any member who donates \$100 or more, not including dues, to the Association in 2011. That information will also be included in the Spring letter. The Otter Lake Scholarship committee has chosen Corey Tighe and Tyler Dunn as recipients of this year's award of \$100 each.

Mona reported on the Town Board meeting that was held at the OLFD last week. Rules for dog licenses have changed. Also, information for low-income full-time residents application for CDBG rehab grants will be posted on our website.

Correspondence: The OLA has received a thank-you note from CAP-21 for our membership donation. Mona read the 2010 report from Bioconservation explaining the Bti application. She met with two residents of the Galway Lake community and took them on the lake in her boat so they could assess the quality of the lake after the Grass Carp application. They were very pleased with the appearance of the lake and donated \$50 to the Association. Since our Grass Carp application, representatives of four different lake communities have inquired about our experience and requested information on the application process.

The kayak/mountain bike raffle to benefit the Bti fund will be held again this year. The mailing will go out in October and the drawing will be held in December.

Mona thanked all members who have contributed their time and effort to the Association by mowing grass, repairing flags, storing the benches, etc. and also to the local merchants who sell the OL Memories book.

Hubert Velepec instructed members on eligibility of members who would like to run for office. He introduced the Officers and Board and noted that the Association welcomes suggestions and topics for discussion at the meetings. He noted that the only Board member whose term expires this year is Anne Wright, and asked for nominations from the floor for that Board position. There were no nominations, so the Secretary stipulated her vote for Anne to continue as Board member for another three-year term.

Mona reminded members of the Old Forestport Days being held this weekend and of the OLF D steak bake which will be held on Sunday, Sept. 5. She also thanked the FD for the use of their room for our meetings. Marlin Markusson noted that the truck drawing at the steak bake will be held at 10 pm this year instead of at midnight.

Mona reminded members that keys to the boat launch are available to paid members. Dick Engle stated that the \$6.50 cost of the key is the amount the locksmith charges the Association, therefore there is no profit to us.

Jorge Battle won \$38 in the 50/50 raffle drawing.

Robert Stoetzner asked and was given permission to offer a recommendation to property owners for the maintenance of their shoreline property. Mona read his recommendation and noted that most improvements will need proper permits to erect barriers, etc. A discussion followed: members agreed that there is erosion from motorboats and offered comments. Mona suggested that owners should confer with the DEC about improvements. Mr Stoetzner stated that he would like the Association to notify property owners that each is responsible to maintain their shorelines and that permits are necessary. All agreed to consider the resolution. Mr Stoetzner then requested a copy of the C-SLAP report. Mona explained that the document has many pages and is available online. Dave Dylis offered to include the report for 2010 on our website. Ivan Kaye advised that permits for wetlands improvement must be requested from the APA. Joan Trask asked members to be careful when cutting fishing line that it does not fall into the lake. She told of her experience in finding a dead crow on her property whose feet were entangled in fishing line.

Mona introduced Ranger Robert Coscomb as our speaker. He explained that he is the DEC region 6 ranger who replaced OL resident Ranger Don Buehler. He described his job as one of peace officer and noted that he has had very good interaction with Otter Lake residents to date. He explained the need for lakeshore improvement permits from the APA and gave a phone number for Terry Tyoe in the Utica Office of the EPA. Permits are free and take from 45-60 days to be processed. The office will inspect the site before, during, and after project completion. Inside the Adirondack, the APA will oversee wetlands improvements. He explained the new law for burning permits. Only brush can be burned, no garbage, leaves, treated lumber, etc. A permit is needed each year. After a short

question period, Ranger Coscomb explained that any work below the high water mark at the shoreline requires a permit. He offered handouts explaining regulations for burning and more. Marlin Markusson stated that many folks use fireworks on the lake, and the Ranger replied that they are always illegal and their use should be reported to the Sheriff's department. He then continued his talk on the various hiking trails in the area. Highlights: his main job is search and rescue, sometimes in conjunction with fire departments for wildfires or with law enforcement on state land. His job also includes education, especially in the "Leave No Trace" program which educates campers and hikers to take out what was brought into the woods. Some trails mentioned: Brandy Lake, Round Pond, Brewer Lake, Woodhull Lake, and Remsen Falls. He suggested hikers purchase maps at Old Forge Hardware showing clearly marked trails. Most trails have marker signs at trailheads. Volunteers clean and clear trails of blowdown and do a fine job. He also gave information on downloading portions of maps from VSGS.com. A discussion followed concerning easy and difficult trails, bears and their habits, search and rescue efforts, etc. He noted that the NYS Rangers were formed in 1885 to aid in wildfires, search and rescue, downed timber, timber theft, and public service.

Mona thanked Ranger Coscomb for his very informative and enlightening lecture. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.