

Otter Lake Association General Meeting Minutes
May 30, 2015
Firehouse Community Room

President, Mona Lincoln, welcomed everyone to our first meeting of the new year, after a long winter!

The meeting started at 10:05 AM. Hubert Velepec gave a very brief history of our flag, noting that it was adopted in the year 1777. He encouraged veterans to salute the flag as they did while in service, as he lead the pledge of allegiance.

Wendy Eden, secretary, read the minutes from our last meeting on August 30, 2014. John Trask motioned for the minutes to be approved as presented, Connie Hurd seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

June Wellman read the treasurer's report. Carol Gehrig motioned that the report be approved as presented, George Haskell seconded the motion, and it was passed unanimously.

Committee and Liaison Reports:

Education Committee: Scholarship applications went out in the spring mailing, but are also available by contacting Mona Lincoln. An application is also available on our website. June 21, 2015 is the deadline for submission and a decision will be made after the next board meeting.

Gabrielle Lodder reported that Jay O'Hern will be the speaker at our next meeting in June. He is the author of several books written about the history of the area and will speak on the same.

Jim LaFountain will line up two speakers for July regarding Lyme's disease. These individuals are in the health care field and started an organization for those suffering from lyme's disease.

Grounds Committee: Gene Trimble reported that the committee is regrouping for the season. He summarized boat launch improvements in 2014: more parking spaces, rocks installed, enhancements of plantings, and a shed installed. Volunteers are needed to mow. There will be a meeting on Saturday, June 13, 12 noon, at Otter Lake Station for anyone that would like to volunteer to help on this committee or at least be a part of the discussion. Some Otter Lake flags still need to be installed, and a few are down. Does anyone know where they are? Let Gene know if you do.

There will be a repaving road project this year from Woodgate to Woods Road in Otter Lake. We are not sure if it will extend further down the road, but we need to keep an eye on drainage at the boat launch entrance. It was also mentioned that road directly in front of store is in poor condition and it would be wonderful if the road project could be extended at least that much further. Bob Vandewater will speak to DOT about this.

Thanks were publicly given to George Smith and Bob Vandewater for cutting up and hauling away the downed tree at the dam.

Forestport Master Plan: No report

Membership: No report

Forestport Town Meeting: No report

An inquiry was made regarding the burned out van at a residence as you approach Otter Lake - no news or movement forward on that issue.

Old Business:

Holiday Raffle: Jean VanValkenburg was the winner of the raffle, but she has not made a decision on whether they will take the kayak or the paddle board.

Aquatic Plant Survey: Last fall, Dan Josephson did a survey on the lake with Bob Vandewater assisting. It took 9-10 hours, going to specific designated areas, and was very thorough. Bob reported that there was not a lot of new growth, but some was identified near the dam. They found some floating bladderwort and counted about 30 carp. The maintenance level of fish to potentially be restocked was discussed, and it was reported that we are still working on this project. Mona requested members provide anecdotal information to pass along. The application will be submitted in the fall, for next spring restock. There were originally 1100 carp stocked in the lake, and we are now possibly considering 250 to restock. It was asked what to do with dead carp, if found, and it was suggested they bury it, as it is good fertilizer!

Correspondence: Mona received information last month from the Town of Forestport, that a voluntary sewer dye test program will be implemented in 2016. By request, they will come and do a dye test. Mona will get more information if anyone is interested. Dye kits are available through our association. It was mentioned that a potential sewer information project may be done in conjunction with this project.

Regarding the water testing program that is offered every year, we were out of this program last year (we cycled out last year), but we are back in this year. One person went for training previously and noted that it was the same instructions as that of 10 years ago.

Connect 211: Call this number for information on basic needs within the community (food, shelter, medical services, etc.) in Madison, Oneida, Herkimer counties. A brochure is available for anyone interested that would like more details.

New Business:

Membership in our association is down from previous years. People are no longer members, yet still use boat launch keys. The boat launch is a privilege for members only. We may issue new keys and distribute only to key holding members in good standing.

Important dates are listed on the back of the agenda sheet for activities and events happening in and around our community in 2015.

July 25 is listed as the Fire Department's pancake breakfast, but it is also the date of our meeting in July. Since this could be a conflict regarding space at the firehouse, we will announce at the June meeting where the July association meeting will be held.

It was asked if the boater safety course was a requirement for all individuals or just for young boaters? The response was that everyone needs it for jet ski use. It was noted that it is a good course, worth going at any age! As a reminder, make sure the registration for your boat is current!

50/50 raffle: Won by Mary Demko, \$35 - she most generously donated it to the BTI program!
Thank you Mary!

Jim Kreutzer motioned for adjournment, the motion was seconded by Marlin, and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Eden
Secretary, Otter Lake Association