

## UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting: August 13, 2022

Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY

President Larry Koch called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There were approximately 65 members in attendance. There followed a motion by Cheryl Joyce and seconded by Otto Doering to approve the minutes of the membership meeting held on July 9th. With no discussion or changes to the minutes the members unanimously approved same. Treasurer's Report was presented by Jay Kapolka with the conclusion that the financial health of the association is balanced. This report can be found on the website and in the newsletter.

The guest speaker, Brad Edmondson, author of the book "A Wild Idea", a history of the Adirondack Park Agency and its beginnings, presented a slide presentation and summary of this topic. The idea started as a research project and evolved into this book published during the 50th anniversary of the APA. His presentation was an overall history of the Park including the development of the Northway, discussions concerning national park or state park, inclusion of the forever wild clause, numerous characters in the history of the Park, and town versus ADK Park controversies. He is working on a second book dealing with events following the formation of the Park and the issues continuing to the present.

Ron Otten, USLA Scholarship Fund Chair, informed us that the USLA store has new items including beer and wine glasses and all items can be obtained on the website or at the Village Mercantile in Saranac Lake. He said the Third Annual USLA golf outing was a success with 60 golfers participating and 50 sponsors. The amount provided for the scholarships will be increased due to this response.

Lynne Perry, Communications Committee Chair, reviewed and thanked the members who assisted with the following: bulletin boards (Jim and Chris Crane), Bob Tate and Ellen Mansfield; e-newsletter (Cindy Rosenwald); web administrator (Liz Evans); database manager (Ellen Bonheim); and facebook page manager (Michael Bonheim). The Mailboat will be mailed in October and February in addition to the online version and she asked for content for articles and photographs. The website has been updated to enable membership renewal online and problems with this process are slowly being worked out; she also asked for members to sign up for the news alert and bulletin board area on the website. Finally, she asked members to check their profile for accuracy.

Sally Ward, Cultural Affairs Chair, introduced the Fishing Derby Winners, gave prizes and praise. She listed the activities held and to be held including outdoor open level yoga at Life Camp, jazz concert with wine and cheese, and Eagle Island tour. After recognizing her committee members she asked for additional members to join the committee and provided the web information: [cultural@uppersaranac.com](mailto:cultural@uppersaranac.com).

Larry Koch reported that the Safety Committee will be chaired by Michael Franklin. The boating safety course is scheduled to be held at the VIC on August 20 to enable members to obtain their boater's certificate.

Otto Doering, appearing on behalf of Larry Nashett, Chair of the Environmental Committee, said fishing diaries need to be sent in to be recorded and that fishing experiences on the lake vary widely. The battery box has to be sent in at the end of the summer so please get any batteries in. A recycling permit at the Tupper Lake Transfer Station is \$25.00.

Barbara Franklin reported on the annual loon census indicating 35 loons were seen this year, no chicks, as compared to 46 last year. The count last year appears to be an anomaly, as in years past the amount seen is closer to 35.

As there is no Government Affairs Chair, Larry Koch gave an update. Changes have been approved for the Fish Creek Campground (road widening, tree cutting); Santa Clara has been approved for a special use permit for the expansion of the former Hickocks marina; the Lot 9 Deerwood subdivision court case has been decided and the property owners have yet to file an appeal; the establishment of short term rental regulations has not moved forward to date; and the situation involving Camp Iroquois is awaiting the judge's decision.

Michael Bonheim, appearing on behalf of Dean Butts, Membership and Nominations Committee Chair, advised there are currently 363 members with a goal of 556 members. The lack of members may be due to the recent change to a website based signup and difficulties with this process; paper applications to members who have not renewed to date will be mailed. Hopefully this will increase membership.

The slate of officers including new officers (two year positions): Lynn Harrison (secretary) and zone chairs Pam Simons (3); Barbara Franklin (4); Mary Travers (10); Carleen Menkes (11); and Lynn Harrison (12) were proposed. Otto Doering moved and Ellen Bonheim seconded the slate. Passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Larry Koch reviewed the strategic study done in 2018 which included a member survey. The mission statement resulting from this study states the purpose of the USLA is to enhance the overall quality of life in the Upper Saranac Lake area. Conclusions included the idea that connecting neighbors together and continuing communication were invaluable to this objective and should ease as covid restrictions are resolved. A proactive approach rather than a reporting function relative to environmental and government affairs is key. Membership has been steady but there is little growth and there is a need to understand the reason for this. Environmentally a close connection between the USLA and the USF is essential. The position of governmental chair needs to be filled and a member to attend meetings of the Harrietstown council is also needed.

Guy Middleton, USF Lake Manager, gave a presentation concerning the new watershed management plan and discussed the long term and short term goals established following a recently concluded extensive planning process. The details of this plan are available on the USF website.

There being no old business or new business, a motion to adjourn was placed by Sally Ward and seconded by Lynne Perry and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:00.

Lynn Harrison, Secretary  
September 2022