

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION
Membership Meeting: July 8, 2023
Wild Center, Tupper Lake, NY

President Larry Koch called the meeting to order at 9:11 am. There were approximately 80 members in attendance. Motion to approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on August 13, 2022 was made by Tom Swayne and seconded by Otto Doering. With no discussion or changes to the minutes, by a unanimous hand vote, the members approved the minutes.

In his report Jay Kapolka, Treasurer, revealed we are financially ahead of other years with \$18,000 in dues paid to date (\$25,000 budgeted) and \$4,600 received in contributions (\$5,000 budgeted). Expenses are on par with prior years. Based upon the cash balance at the beginning of the year and projected expenses, the balance at year's end will be approximately \$59,000.

Brendan Wiltse, Senior Research Scientist at Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute and the featured speaker, spoke at length on "Adirondack Lakes and a Warmer Future" concluding that climate change has affected Adirondack lakes in the following ways: less ice cover in the winter and warming lake water, both of which lead to stratification, a decrease in the oxygen content and decrease in the habitat for cold water fish. This process has also caused more nutrients to move into the lakes resulting in an increased risk of harmful algal blooms. A copy of his discussion and slides will be placed on the USLA website. Also updated data from the USF is available online at usfoundation.net.

Ron Otten, USLA Scholarship Fund Chair, presented information about the 2023 recipients of the \$2,500 scholarships - Mitchell Ellsworth from Saranac Lake High School who will attend SUNY Brockport and Meika Nadeau from Tupper Lake Central School who will attend St. Lawrence University. He discussed the funding of these scholarships through the proceeds from the USLA store (also on the Village Mercantile website) and the golf tournament to be held on July 24th.

Larry Koch recognized the twelve Zone Chairs and encouraged attendance at each zone party.

Lynne Perry, Communications, advised members need to be aware of the numerous options for communication and to obtain information: the five bulletin boards around the lake; the Facebook page; the Mailboat newsletter (printed in October, February and May) with color copies available on the website; and the enewsletter sent to all members every two weeks in the summer season. The website is administrated by Liz Evans; data base manager is Ellen Bonheim. A new website development committee has been formed to update the website exploring different ways of presenting information and to encourage members to utilize this site. She encouraged members to sign up for news alerts and explained improvements allowing for ease in signing up for membership, updating members' information and registering for USLA activities.

Sally Ward, Cultural Affairs, enthusiastically described the events scheduled for this season (recognizing the four historic camps where events will be held) which include two yoga events; a

wine education seminar; a tour of Moss Ledge (both of the latter events were already full) and the haiku poetry contest which concludes on July 31st. She encouraged members present at the meeting to write a haiku before leaving to be eligible for a prize. Also she noted the nature journal workshop has been rescheduled for July 21st.

Safety Chairman, Michael Franklin, delineated the age requirements for boating safety certification required by New York State - a person born after 1/1983 needs the certification now; born after 1978 needs the certification in 2024 and all persons born prior to 1978 need the certificate by January 1, 2025. The boating certificate can be obtained by taking the in-person course on August 2nd at the VIC at Paul Smith's College.

Suzanne Carrillo Kern, Environmental, after recognizing the members of the committee, enumerated the major objectives of this committee including: creating awareness among USLA members; promoting activities to drive water quality of USL; providing advocacy to support environmental resource protections, loon safety, shoreline and wetlands protection and fishery health. Initiatives supporting these objectives include fishery health (Angler Diary program), the DEC Wave program (water assessment by volunteer evaluators), septic system support and maintenance, environmental health and safety (tick awareness, Lyme Disease; HABs), recycling opportunities, and communication.

Larry Koch, Government Affairs, advised there has been no changes or movement with respect to the pending improvements at the Fish Creek campground or the Upper Saranac Marina. The lawsuit between the Town of Santa Clara and Camp Iroquois has been resolved however it appears there will be ongoing issues with this large camp and its use. The formulation of a short term rental law in Santa Clara is in the process with a meeting held on June 8th for public comment and a further meeting scheduled for July 20. The USLA provided a letter to the Santa Clara Town Board on June 18th (available on the website) which included the mission statement (...to improve the quality of life for the Upper Saranac area) and expressing confidence that the eventual law will safeguard our environment and investments around the lake.

Dean Butts, Membership, said there are currently 414 paid members (compared to 309 at this point in 2022); at the end of 2022 there were 489 paid members. The goal is 556 members (the amount needed to meet budget requirements), and he reiterated that it was everyone's job to recruit members describing how this can be done by viewing the membership rolls on the website and encouraging those not listed to become members.

The President's Report was given by Larry Koch. Progress has been made on the 2018 strategy objectives even through the difficulties resulting from covid. These include formulating exciting ideas with the involvement of new members and continuing involvement with local governmental organizations and communities. In addition, there is a need for a further five year strategic review; a survey of the membership; and the nomination of a new individual to the position of president as Larry's term concludes at the end of 2023. The search continues for new volunteers to be involved in the organization; to be cognizant of relevant community issues

(short term rental law and Upper Saranac Marina developments) and a decision about the future of the fireboat (maintenance, ownership, etc.).

Guy Middleton, Lake Manager from the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation, reviewed the extended history and ownership of Bartlett Carry Dam culminating in the 1989 creation of the Upper Saranac Foundation to raise funds to purchase and repair the dam. Extensive repairs have been made on several occasions since that time with continuous assessments of the dam. At the present time the required improvements include starting and completing Phase 1 before this winter and completion of Phase 2 in 2024 at a cost of approximately \$2,000,000 (\$1,700,000 has been raised to date). This is funded by a fundraising campaign and additional grants. Additional information can be obtained at usfoundation.net.

There being no old business or new business, a motion to adjourn was made by Otto Doering and seconded by Michael Bonheim. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

Lynn Harrison, Secretary
July 30, 2023