

Little Ossipee Lake Association
Minutes of Annual Meeting
August 8, 2009 at Camp Laughing Loon

The 2009 annual meeting of the Little Ossipee Lake Association was called to order by president Michael Taflas on Saturday, August 8th at 9:17 AM.

Introduction:

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, officers were introduced: Stan Goff (VP), Karen Cummings (Secretary). Treasurer, Ed Doggett was excused from the meeting.

Directors present were Ross Dindio, Mariann Goff, Barbara Hamor, Bob Labelle, Sandy Labelle, Frank Salvo, Donna Taflas; Alternates: Elaine Dindio, Stu Lamont, Barbara Lamont

Directors excused: Bob Cyr, Pam L'Heureux; Directors absent: Jon Tufts

Overview of Accomplishments:

President Michael Taflas gave an overview of what had been accomplished to date

- Developed a mission statement;
- Created a mascot, "Lola the Loon";
- Initiated planning and purchase of safety buoys;
- Relocated the annual meeting from the Fire Station to Camp Laughing Loon;
- Began gathering recipes for LOLA Cookbook;
- Initiated an Erosion Control program in conjunction with York County Soil & Water Conservation District.

Mission Statement:

Director Donna Taflas discussed the new mission statement which was developed to provide focus for the organization: *Preserve and Protect Little Ossipee Lake through **E**ducation, **E**radication, and **E**rosion Control - E³*. The use of strong action words like "eradicate" helps convey the energy and commitment to wiping out erosion and practices detrimental to the health of the lake. Donna also pointed out that our mascot – "Lola the Loon" – is symbolic in that the presence of loons is a positive indicator of the health of our lake.

Audience members answered questions & received free t-shirts throughout the meeting.

Boat Parade:

Director Barbara Hamor discussed the July 4th Boat Parade. Seven judges observed from Weymouth Point: Mike Taflas, Bev Killam, Donna Taflas, Stan Goff, Sandy Labelle, Ethel Hackett, and Barbara Hamor. Thanks were given to Killam family for use of their camp, special decorations & food.

2009 Winners:

Pontoon Boats:

- 1st - Libby family - "President Obama"
- 2nd- Higgins family - "Save the Waterway"
- 3rd- Belanger family - "All Green"

Motor Boats:

- 1st - Thomas family -"Mermaids"
- 2nd- Connors family - "Green Monster"
- 3rd - Savoy family - "Jet Ski"

Best in Show "Flags" - Nava family

Scholarship:

Director Frank Salvo presented information about the LOLA Scholarship. A thank-you note from the 2009 recipient, Corinne Carland, was read. There were six applicants from Massabesic. The Guy Litalien scholarship is given in memory of Guy Litalien, a formerly active member of association, who passed away at an early age. Guy was involved with the watershed survey, water testing, and tirelessly invested many hours in the preservation of lake.

Treasurer's report: In Treasurer Ed Doggett's absence, Director Donna Tafas gave a report summary. As of the day of the meeting, we had a total of 214 paying members.

Update from YCSWD:

- Prior to introducing guest speaker, Melissa Brandt from York County Soil & Water Conservation District, Michael Tafas thanked everyone for the things we are doing right to preserve the lake: Water testing, Mother Nature's filtering system: "no mow zone" – 5-6' buffer at lake edge.

-1st LOLA Erosion Control Project Summary

 Melissa Brandt presented a board display on Erosion Control. She reviewed the project at the Dindio property on Courtney Lane.

 Goals: identify site with issues, work with home owner to design a mutually agreeable plan and implementation date, order materials & coordinate volunteers. Plan needed to be low cost, low maintenance, significant impact. Native, non-invasive shrubs & plants were used, also friendly non-native – e.g. Hostas. Plantings were done on slope along side stairway, Erosion control mulch, which is heavy and inexpensive, was spread 4" thick to cover bare soil. We created an Infiltration trench and catch basin to slow runoff/infiltration. A rain garden was planted with water loving plants to settle some of the water.

 Materials – 12 yd erosion control mulch, 1 yd rip/rap, 1 yd stone - cost \$500.00 at property owners' expense.

 Labor – 14 people – 2.5 hrs COMPLETED – great collaboration and a lot of fun!

-YCC

 Melissa also discussed the formation of a Youth Conservation Corp to assist with erosion control projects. She cited Acton-Shapleigh as a working example. To form a YCC, a committee would be established to facilitate planning and prioritizing of projects and consist of the following: a LOLA Board member, Director=college grad, Crew Leader=College age, Crew = High School age (5-8 students). Benefits: Free technical assistance, free labor, land owner pays materials; can support other lake associations – perhaps Lake Arrowhead, Lake Sherburne, and Little Ossipee. Annual cost would be ~ \$30K – funded by member towns, lake associations, grants, sponsorship, and partnering w/other conservation groups. A YCC would benefit local youth and make visible conservation and environmental efforts. All were reminded that a permit from DEP is required for work within 75' (mulch, pathways, etc). She used the slogan: "Erosion is a Vandal" – and asked all to keep an eye on properties around the lake.

-President Michael Tafas presented flowers to Melissa as a thank you.

-Audience inquired about lake levels and erosion from lake as opposed to down slope. It was suggested that during the 2010 drawdown, people obtain permits and protect their shorelines with rip-rap.

Lake Clean-up:

Michael Tafas presented a slide show about littering on lake. All were encouraged to make an extra effort to pick up visible litter.

Website:

Karen Cummings – highlighted some of the information available on our website www.LittleOssipeeLake.org. Of particular relevance to the erosion control efforts are the pages on Resources and Home&Camp. Visitors will find links showing lake-friendly landscaping including infiltration trenches, catch basins, suggested plantings.

LOLA Benefit Dance:

Bob Labelle – advertised the 2009 LOLA Benefit Dance to be held on Aug 22nd at Sokokis Hall, Limerick. Proceeds benefit the scholarship fund.

Lake Level:

Don Holden, the "Dam Man" - presented his Dam Report. He has been appointed by the Selectmen to monitor lake level and maintain consistent level. Winter Drawdown 2010 begins Oct 1 – if conditions are perfect, lake level would go down an additional foot (to 3'6"). 2009 was the wettest summer in 110 years, and with all gates wide open 1.75" ran over top of dam in Spring. Ice Out data has been tracked for 20 years and collected by someone in Univ NY. He played quiz game with historical ice-out dates. People won t-shirts. Ice-In (100%) earliest Dec 19th, '95 & '07. Latest Ice-In – Jan 25th. Don visits dam 125x/year, making adjustments as needed to maintain a consistent level. Don's continued efforts are much appreciated by all residents and Lake Association.

Raffle items: 2 plants, gift certificates

Buoys:

Director Bob Labelle explained the plans for buoys to be installed in Slow No-Wake Zones. They will be 3' above water, put in after ice-out, taken out in Oct. There will be an Orange buoy for water testing. Installation is planned for Spring 2010. Signs will stay in place until end of next summer.

Water Testing:

Director Sandy Labelle reported that water testing done every 2 weeks. Guy Litalien started testing back in '70s with Director Bob Cyr. Sandy demonstrated the use of the viewer and secchi disk. O₂ (Oxygen) levels have been tracked since the 80's. Maine Volunteer Lakes Monitoring Program – has copies of test data. A link is available through our website. Water sampling – monthly physical sample are sent to UMaine, Augusta and analyzed for P (phosphorous). Little Ossipee is in the top 10% of lakes in Maine, but is considered a lake at risk because of the amount of activity.

Cookbook:

Secretary Karen Cummings gave a brief overview of the theme and sense of community we hoped to instill with the cookbook. She thanked those who submitted recipes and urged them to solicit recipes from others.

Another raffle.

Loon Count:

Ceil Clark was introduced as the person on our lake who monitors the loon count - currently 5.

Open Session (Q&A)

- Someone inquired about the presence (or lack thereof) of the game warden on the lake. LOLA had discussions about paying additional policing by warden because visits were so infrequent. The feedback in prior years is that most residents did not want additional coverage.
- Advertising meetings: it was suggested that the annual meeting be advertised in the local newspaper and on signs on route 5. Dianne Holden offered assistance with visible realty sign.
- Nancy Deering Goddard was introduced. She has been on the lake since 1929. She made 1st map 1953, 1960's, Libby – published bicentennial version. She also made a monopoly game of LOL and suggested that it might be a good fundraiser.
- Frank Salvo – Election of Officers – 14 directors – 7 elected every year. Vote all 7 people elected 2009-2011 - one vote authorized by audience to secretary. Frank is resigning from the Board of Directors and will be missed.
- Board of directors of Camp Laughing Loon – Celeste Hatch tc Hatch@roadrunner.com was introduced.
- All were invited to stay after the meeting for a barbecue outside the hall. Free food for members.

Minutes from 2008 Annual Meeting:

Secretary Karen Cummings announced that the minutes from 2008 annual meeting were posted on the website, and that she would provide hardcopies for those who need them. Minutes of 2008 meeting were accepted as posted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:28AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Cummings
LOLA Secretary