

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Annual Meeting, August 14, 2021 (in-person at Bungalow Bay)

Minutes

The 2021 USLA Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:40am on August 14th 2021, by President Larry Koch. Approximately 75 people attend the meeting. Board members present are underlined below.

Motion to approve the minutes from the July 2021 meeting put forth by L. Koch, seconded by Dean Butts. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

L. Koch invites Jay Kapolka forward to give a summary of association finances. J. Kapolka shares a spreadsheet and discusses the financial position of the association. J. Kapolka responds to a question about expenses to say that communications (website, mailboat etc.) is our largest category of expenses. No further discussion.

L. Koch then hands over the microphone to guest speaker, Amy Catania, who is the Executive Director of the Historic Saranac Lake Foundation. A. Catania shares about her work at the Saranac Laboratory Museum and offers a historical perspective on the area. She shares about the area's settlement, the history of indigenous people around the lake and the development of the Great Camps.

L. Koch next invites Lynne Perry up to discuss communications matters. L. Perry highlights the mailboat and asks individuals to consider contributing stories and pictures to it. She also thanks Cindy Rosenwald and Liz Evans for their work putting the e-newsletter together over the summer. L. Perry then shares more information about the website development committee, which includes L. Evans, L. Koch, Dave Powalyk, Susan Hearn and herself. Lastly, she thanks all the individuals who help maintain the bulletin boards with association information around the lake.

Airlie Lennon comes up next to share information about the by-laws review committee result. She notes that while there were no significant changes, there was clarification added around membership year and dues requirements as well as new language added to encompass new electronic forms of communication that reflect the ways in which USLA has adapted to COVID-19. Hearing no questions or concerns on the matter, A. Lennon makes a motion to approve the updated bylaws, which is seconded by Michael Speck. Bylaws are unanimously approved, no further discussion.

Following this, Ron Otten comes up to speak about the Upper Saranac Lake Chip Harrison Memorial Scholarship Prize, discussing the board's work and fundraising efforts. L. Koch then conducts USLA's auction, all of whose proceeds will go directly to the scholarship fund.

Next, L. Koch invites Sally Ward up to discuss USLA's Cultural Affairs programming, including the winners of the virtual fishing derby and the photography contest. The contest photos will be available for the remainder of the year on the USLA website. Finally, please let S. Ward know if you have any ideas for next summer's Cultural Affairs programming.

L. Koch then invites a presentation from Eagle Island about their summer programming this year as well as their plans for the future.

Following this presentation, L. Koch leads a discussion about how to stay connected out of season--in particular, for those who are up on the lake all year round.

Next, Dean Buttes discusses USLA Membership. He shares that as of 8/14/21 USLA has 470 paid members—22 of which are new this year. As of 8/14/21, 142 members from last year have not renewed their membership, so he is asking that zone chairs reach out specifically to these individuals.

L. Perry then shares an environmental affairs update on behalf of Larry Nashett, who could not be present at the meeting. The update covers the fishing diary statistics project, the battery recycling project and the Protect Your Lake initiative.

The next topic of discussion is the loon census, unfortunately, Barbara Franklin is not present to share more beyond L. Koch's update.

Next, Michelle Brown-Garcia comes forward to share an update about the boating safety courses conducted this past summer. She reminds everyone about Brianna's Law as well as the importance of cleaning, draining and drying your boat before putting it into the lake. She also shares an update from the Upper Saranac Lake Fire Department asking individuals to update their signage so that their house number is visible from the road and also encourages individuals to consider making a donation to the department. M. Brown-Garcia then answers questions about the boating safety course.

L. Koch then transitions to discuss the work of the Government Affairs Committee. He reviews the Fish Creek Campground situation as well as the Santa Clara moratorium on commercial marinas. There is on-going discussion about the best way to track and regulate rental properties.

L. Koch invites Guy Middleton up next to offer an update on the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation. G. Middleton then invites Dan Kelting, Executive Director of the Adirondack Watershed Institute, to join him. They proceed to discuss their partnership on managing the area's watershed and the importance of doing so.

L. Koch asks if there is any new business, hearing none, he asks if there is any old business. There are reminders shared to engage with the USLA Facebook page, to be active in upcoming community meetings and consider volunteering with the association.

To conclude, L. Koch makes a motion to adjourn the meeting, D. Butts seconds it. Meeting is adjourned at 11:42AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Travers, Secretary
October 22, 2021