

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Membership Meeting, July 10, 2021
Saranac Lake Free Library

Minutes

The first in-person USLA meeting since August of 2019 was called to order at 9:00am on July 10th 2021, by President Larry Koch.

L. Koch gives Liz Evans a shout out for the work she has done for the association and then reviews the agenda. He notes that the USLA Vice President Dave Powalyk and USLA Secretary Mary Travers are not able to be present at this meeting. Treasurer Jay Kapolka along with many other Board Members are present among the 62 total attendees.

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 2020 Zoom meeting put forth by L. Koch, Jay Kapolka seconded. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

L. Koch invites Jay Kapolka forward to give a summary of the Treasurer's Report. J. Kapolka discusses the positive financial position of the association and reviews the income year to date as well as operating budget. He notes an approximate budget surplus of \$20,000. No discussion.

L. Koch introduces the meeting's featured speaker, Rev. Tyler Montgomery, who is rector at the Church of the Ascension in Saranac Lake.

T. Montgomery opens his presentation with a video about the Church of the Ascension. He then shares some of the church's history, his personal history with the Adirondacks and explores the implications this history has for our spirituality. He mentions different spiritual homes in the area and considers what it is about this lake that has made its communities want to turn towards the divine for generations. He suggests, in part, that the mystery and uncontrollability of the surrounding environment is the key to its sacredness and our desire for connection with the divine.

L. Koch then invites Paula Mickelson, the Executive Director of Eagle Island Camp, to come up and update the community about what's happening on Eagle Island. Paula notes an open house planned for August. Please see the Eagle Island website for more information.

L. Koch next invites Lynne Perry up to discuss communications matters. L. Perry encourages everyone to check the bi-weekly USLA e-newsletter and local bulletin boards around the lake. L. Koch congratulates L. Perry for winning the award for best lake association newsletter on large sized lakes in the state.

L. Koch then transitions to discuss USLA's website updating process. He shares that the project began with a need to update USLA's membership database and it has evolved to include other features such as event sign-ups. He goes on to explain the terminology that the new database will use to distinguish members—active and non-active, from nonmembers—active and non-active. Active membership status

will be required for event participation and be insured by the association. L. Koch then demonstrates the interface of the new website.

Next, L. Koch invites Airlie Lennon to the podium to discuss the by-laws review process. She notes that while there were no significant changes, there was language to be updated around electronic forms of communication that reflect the ways in which USLA has adapted to COVID-19. Please contact A. Lennon with further questions or comments regarding the bylaws, which are available for reference on the USLA website. Finally, she notes that we must have at least 50 memberships present at the August 2021 meeting in order to vote on and approve these new changes, per the regulations stipulated by Robert's Rules. In order to make this possible, members have the option of filling out the proxy vote form found on the website at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting and emailing it to M. Travers (mary.travers@yale.edu) or Larry Koch (koch.larry@gmail.com) if they do not plan on being present in person.

L. Koch then invites Ron Otten to announce the two recipients of the 2021 Upper Saranac Lake Chip Harrison Memorial Scholarship Prize and discusses the work of the scholarship fund. He also shares information about the upcoming annual golf tournament that raises funds for these scholarships.

Next, L. Koch invites Sally Ward up to discuss USLA's Cultural Affairs programming, including most recently a virtual fishing derby and photography contest. See the e-Mailboat for further information about upcoming events.

Larry Nashett comes to the podium next as a representative from the Environmental Committee to discuss fishing and environmental conditions on and around the lake as well as a local battery recycling program he plans to start in August.

Following L. Nashett, Dean Butts takes the mic to discuss USLA Membership. He shares that USLA has 441 paid members in 2021—20 of which are new this year! D. Butts encourages zone chairs to host gatherings in August to continue building community on the lake.

Next, Michelle Brown Garcia, chair of the Safety Committee, comes up to discuss boating safety classes. She encourages members to contact L. Perry for more information or to sign up for a class. She also shares information about new boating safety laws that have gone into effect. For more information on these laws, see the U.S. Coast Guard and/or New York State websites. She shares additional safety information and encourages community members to stay up to date on current rules and regulations.

L. Koch then shifts to discuss the Government Affairs Committee and its current projects including, among other things, lobbying the DEC concerning the Fish Creek Campground development, the town of Santa Clara concerning commercial development of new marinas and the APA concerning the approval of new property development in wet land environments.

L Koch hands over this discussion to Guy Middleton from the Upper Saranac Foundation. G. Middleton offers an update on the foundation's work during COVID-19, including watershed management and protection, USF's website development and the Bartlett Carry Dam status.

L. Koch then opens the floor for any old business. There is none. He solicits any new business. There is none.

L. Perry makes a motion to end the meeting, S. Ward seconded it.

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Travers
August 6, 2021