

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.
Member Meeting, July 9, 2022 (in-person meeting)

Draft Minutes

President Larry Koch called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

L. Koch makes a motion to approve the minutes from the 8/14/21 Annual Meeting, seconded by Dave Powalyk. No further discussion. L. Koch then yields the floor to Tracy Smith from the Adirondack Sports Authority to discuss the World University Games 2023 in Lake Placid and respond to community questions. Following T. Smith's presentation, L. Koch introduces Peter Dimmig from the Saranac Lake Civic Center, to share further information about the World University Games 2023.

L. Koch then invites Jay Kapolka to share an update about association finances, which are in good shape. There is no further discussion.

Next, L. Koch introduces Ron Otten to share an update on the USLA Scholarship Funds, celebrating the recipients and their awards. R. Otten then provides further information about the upcoming community golf tournament, which supports this scholarship fund.

L. Koch then offers the President's Report, discussing the updated membership renewal process, the status of association insurance and USLA's new boating safety course. Following some brief discussion, L. Koch passes the discussion over to Lynne Perry to offer an update from the Communications Committee.

L. Perry shares some challenges Gmail users have had with the new website. Please contact her if you are in this category and need help. L. Perry offers thanks to Cindy Rosenwald for her help in getting the summer e-newsletter out, Ellen Bonheim who has agreed to take on managing the database for the website, Susan Hearn for her help in transitioning to this new system and Liz Evans for her technical support of this project. L. Perry then solicits help from the community to get involved in writing for the newsletter. L. Perry is also looking for someone to help in managing the USLA bulletin boards around the lake as well. Finally, L. Perry makes an announcement for the upcoming Wild Center picnic and encouraged members to attend.

Sally Ward then speaks on behalf of the Cultural Affairs Committee. She encourages everyone to submit their catches for the Annual Fishing Derby. The next event promoted is outdoor open-level yoga, which will be led by E. Bonheim. Also upcoming is a wine, cheese and jazz event in and finally the Great Camp Eagle Island Tour. Please visit the USLA website for more information and to sign up for these activities. Email cultural@uppersaranac.com for technical support related to sign-ups.

Dean Butts is next to share an update from the Membership Committee. We are currently at 309 members and are still receiving a few checks. Unfortunately, this is way behind where we should be with a target of 556 members. In addition to Zone Chairs, everyone should help in getting the word out to our community about renewing or joining.

Next, Larry Nashett introduces the Environmental Committees and shares relevant updates, specifically concerning the Angler Diary program, the Fishing Derby and the battery recycling program. At the end of his presentation, L. Nashett notes that he is looking for someone to replace him as committee chairperson within the next two years.

Next topic on the agenda is the Government Affairs Committee. L. Koch asks for a volunteer to take over his role on this committee. The Fish Creek Campground construction project has also been approved to move forward, despite over 5500 trees being slated for removal. On the Saranac Lake Marina development project, D. Powalyk comes forward to share an update. Next, L. Koch shifts to talk about Camp Iroquois' land use and the Lot 9 situations. Despite significant advocacy attempts in regards to both, it looks as though each project is still set to move forward. Please contact this committee with any further information about government affairs related activities in Harrietstown on the southern third of the lake.

Next up, Guy Middleton speaks to the association about the Saranac Lake Foundation, whose primary goal is to preserve water quality of the lake. This year the foundation hired its own team of divers rather than contracting out to work on containing invasive plants, such as milfoil. G. Middleton also offers education around different species of algae that have been found in the lake and that are dangerous—as well as how to curb their spread. Lastly, G. Middleton states that SLF is hoping to be proactive in repairs needed for the Bartlett Carry Dam, rather than reactive as was the case in 2018 and awaiting to hear about grant funding to jumpstart this 2-million-dollar project. He requests that members consider writing to lawmakers on behalf of this project. G. Middleton then responding to community questions on these topics.

L. Koch opens the floor for any old business. There is none.

L. Koch opens the floor for any new business. There is a question regarding Young Life. No further questions.

E. Bonheim makes a motion to end the meeting, seconded by D. Butts.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Travers
August 6th, 2022