Lake Onderdonk Improvement Association – Late Spring 2026 Meeting

Combined Board of Directors and Member Breakfast Meeting

6-20-26 10:00am

Present: Steve Converse, President; Chris D'Alessandro, Vice President; Joe McFadden, Treasurer; Karen Edwards-D'Alessandro, Secretary; Maynard Porter, BOD; Barb Porter, BOD; Randy Coon, BOD, John Merrill, BOD; Penny Stoever, BOD; Judy Converse; Marlene Snyder; Maureen Hartman; Michael Hartman; Joe Miller; Mike Cady; Rose Dewey; Cate Oranchak; Sean Mullahy; Dennis M Carl; John Stoever; Ken Storms; Mike Marks; Julia Marks; Jim Nicotera; Denise Nicotera; Eddie Sickles; Deb Sickles; Kim Wright; Bruce Wright

1. Welcome and call to order: Chris introduced himself and facilitated today's meeting. The meeting was called to order at 10:15am as members enjoyed a bountiful breakfast on the new tables and chairs. Chris announced that the tables and chairs were purchased with a generous memorial donation by Rose Dewey in honor of her late husband Donald. All members introduced themselves and Steve noted this will become a regular habit as we begin to grow in our membership. Karen informed the group that Joe McFadden has an alpaca farm with a gift shop, a fact she only recently learned.

2. Secretary's report, review/approval of 5-23-26 meeting minutes: Karen e-mailed the minutes to all present at May's meeting. Spelling edits were corrected. Steve motioned to accept the minutes and it was seconded by Barb. They will be posted on the LOIA Website where 2024 and 2025 meeting minutes are available. Many thanks to Curtis Canham for maintaining the Website.

3. Treasurer's report: Joe McFadden reported that we currently have a balance of approximately $11,000. He stated there are several other dues and frontage assessment payments that may be coming in from those who typically pay, Steve will follow up on these. We have yet to pay out the 300 club winnings so there is approximately $9,000. We of course need a healthy reserve, but we have funds available for some improvement projects.

4. 300 Club Raffle: Karen reported that we have sold 258 tickets thus far and gave out 9 bonus tickets to those selling more than 10 tickets after accounting for those received at May's meeting and successful outreach to those who had not yet returned sold tickets. There are still many opportunities to win and over 30 tickets left to sell! The profit from the raffle as it stands is $5,125. Many thanks to all who have sold/purchased tickets!

5. Survey Results: There were 27 completed surveys returned with the annual dues and assessments. The tallies of the 8 items will be attached to the these minutes. The largest area of interest was future opportunities to learn about the health of the lake. It is our hope to offer a presentation this summer in the clubhouse.

6. Clubhouse and Grounds Committee: Randy reported that he repaired the dangerous floorboard, all old furniture was sold by Chris on Facebook marketplace; Randy, Chris, Karen and Julia painted the floor and poles; Randy, Karen and Julia put in the new tables and chairs purchased with Rose's donation. The room looks wonderful. Steve recounted all the work done by LOIA members over the past few seasons-transforming the stinky, leaky, poorly lit/shaky electrical into the room we enjoyed today. Additionally, he reviewed all the workers and their donated equipment to transform the grounds.
   Randy reported that he and Rich got the pump running to enable water to be brought to the proposed bathroom(s) after 10 years of not running. The well is good and the septic is viable and substantial.

Chris remarked that this was accomplished after several afternoons of troubleshooting, machines/tools and Randy and Rich's expertise. He further informed the group that he recently learned about the history of Rich and Randy's father caring for the pump which was passed down to Rich as the caretaker for so many years. Chris stated that, like the Coon's family, we all can have the interests of the lake stewarded by our families, children and grandchildren in the future and he is invested in decision making that supports that vision. Karen noted that Randy maintains the lawns as well, quite a significant undertaking!

Randy noted that with the updated central clubhouse accomplished, the other items to be considered include creating bathrooms, the type of bathroom to be considered; bringing electric and water to them; bringing water/electric to the clubhouse; development of the shore of the LOIA's lake front property and stabilizing the kitchen portion of the clubhouse. Randy stated that insurance is a key issue for all projects. Steve reported that he will follow-up with the companies who provided us with quotes. Rose suggested obtaining an outhouse for the season. Randy stated these projects will be explored more fully at the next Board of Directors meeting.

7. Water Quality Committee:

Chris introduced Penny as the Chair of the water committee and thanked her for the generous donation of the new tablecloths.

A. CSLAP: Penny gave a presentation on the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) report generated from the four water samples collected, processed and tested in the laboratory by NYS DEC. The data from the sampling done last year is posted on the CSLAP website Dashboard. It is rather cumbersome to locate and can be a challenging read for a non-scientist, but members are encouraged to check it out. Google CSLAP, locate our lake by selecting the circle on the NYS map on the Dashboard. Penny gave a presentation of how we test, what the state tests for and the results provided on the site. A copy of this report will be posted on the Honkers Website as well as the LOIA Website.

Penny had an additional presentation on the muck and its impact on the health of the lake. This presentation will also be posted on Honkers facebook page and the LOIA Website. Mike Marks wondered how we will go about taking next steps regarding the muck based upon her presentation. Penny invited any with interest to join the committee. Steve, Mike Marks, Ken and Barb expressed interest. Penny will send an invitation to the next committee meeting and also put something on the Honkers website for others who may not be in attendance but have interest in being a part of the committee.

Karen noted that we have learned from NYSFOLA that it is essential for all to know that regardless of what happens in and around our lake, the health of the lake is first and foremost related to our watershed. When watershed development exceeds 25% development- this is the "tipping point" for irreversible lake decline (increased harmful algal blooms, reduced biodiversity…). Lake Onderdonk's 397 acre watershed is currently at 17% developed and 9% agriculture-those numbers are combined to factor in concerns of runoff. Penny noted that she will explore this further with the county regarding what the decisions the Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District make relative to our watershed based upon this information. Karen additionally stressed that the single quickest and cheapest solution to improved water health is to remove dead plant matter from our shorelines and swim areas and remove invasives by the root from our swim areas.

B. NYSFOLA: The New York State Federation of Lake Associations, of which we are a member, has a wealth of information on their website for interested members. Steve reported he learned an incredible amount of information at their regional conference and any member of our Association can

attend this autumn luncheon for free. We receive so many great benefits from the $125 annual membership - including participation in CSLAP. This year NYSFOLA intends to offer several webinars with expert panels on topics of interest to NYSFOLA members. They shared on a recent CSLAP teams meeting that they have found at their regional meetings how much lake associations learn from one another to combat similar problems. LOIA members are encouraged to contact Penny with ideas to submit for consideration on NYSFOLA webinar presentation ideas.

C. Invasives -

*curly leaf: The early application was noted to have excellent control of the curly leaf thus far which was nearly to the surface by application time and is now on the lake floor. Members are encouraged to scoop decayed and propeller cut off vegetation from their shore line to improve water quality, reclaim your water depth, prevent muck and to prevent nutrient loading. Bruce noted that the weeds in front of his property seem quite bad this year as well as the area leading to the cattails and asked LOIA to think about this area. Steve informed him that the permitting only allows the application to go into lake acreage just above that area and assumed this was due to wetland restrictions. Steve agreed to get clarification from Nicole on this point. Steve did note that clearcast is a systemic rather than contact herbicide, however, so has made an impact reducing the nuisance non-invasives as well as the invasives. Karen noted the positive impact on the dense and spreading non-invasive broadleaf pond weed that was a paddle impediment to the wetland area in late summer. Steve noted that natives, when not to a nuisance level, are essential for a healthy lake. He also noted that this year's early application will have a reduced impact on native plants which begin their regrowth later in the spring. Overall, we agree that this change is more in keeping with everyone's shared desire to eradicate the choking and invasive curlyleaf pondweed and enable us to have seasons where we may skip a year of application. Members shared that in their experience, past applications of Aquathol were typically applied too late in the season. Steve reported that Little Bear has been excellent about getting permitting applications in for approval early so that we may receive our permit in order to schedule our application at the best time/water temperature to target the curlyleaf.

*water lilies: It was noted on a survey that there is considerable spread of the invasive water lilies. In the past, they were a significant problem and members had to go in and remove them with rakes. Others have expressed concern last year. Members are encouraged to remove invasive water lilies from their swim areas.

*water chestnuts: there are no new sightings of water chestnuts, they are now under excellent control

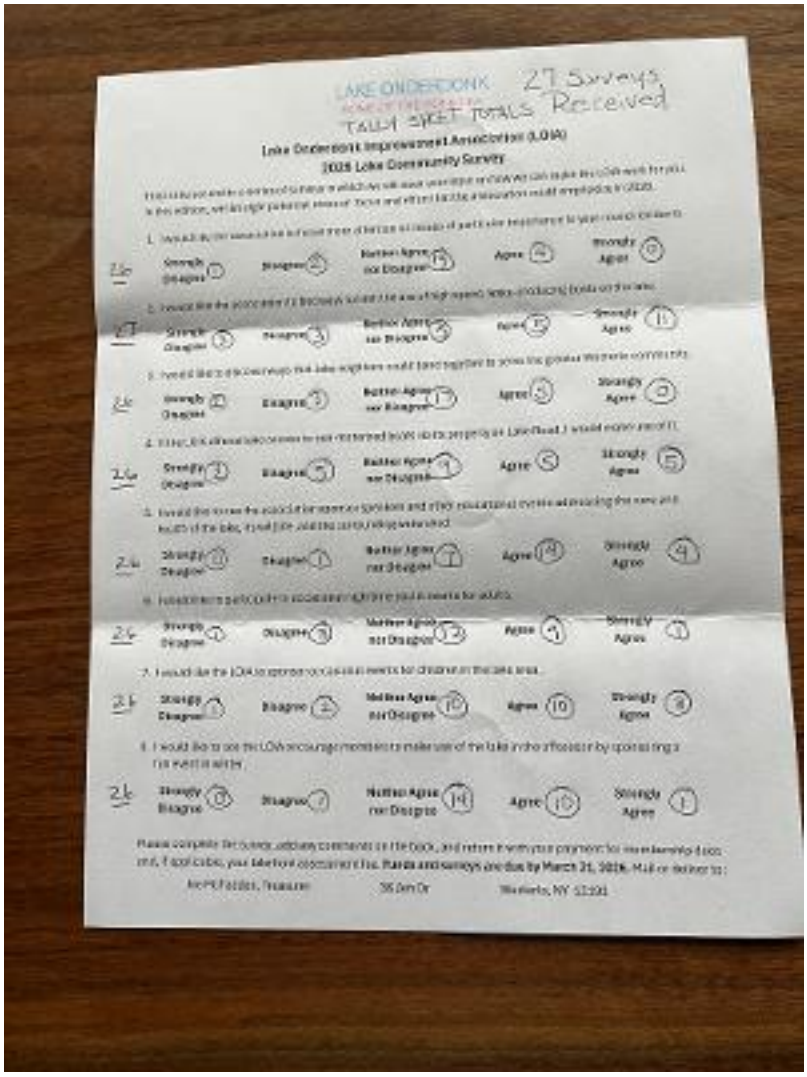
*Future Lake Education Opportunity: Steve will be contacting Little Bear regarding a presentation.

8. Social Committee: Judy thanked all for participation in the "New" Breakfast, the second of the committee's 2026 activities. The new floor, paint, tables, chairs and table cloths are a wonderful upgrade to our clubhouse. She stated perhaps we would look to hosting another potluck on the lawn this season. Karen informed all that her new neighbor Jim is a musician. Jim graciously offered to provide us entertainment!

9. New Business: Nothing was presented from the floor.

10. Raffle drawings: Randy drew the 5th drawing of the season. Randy and Marlene hold the ticket stubs, post the winners weekly and maintain the LOIA signs.

11. The breakfast meeting was adjourned @ 11:07am



LAKE ONDERDONK 27 Surveys
ASSOCIATION
TALLY SHEET TOTALS Received

Lake Onderdonk Improvement Association (LOIA)

2025 Lake Community Survey

This survey will enable us to better understand what you like about living on the lake and how we can make it even better in the future. Based on the results of this survey, we will create a plan for the next 5 years and efforts by the association could start as early as 2026.

1. I would like the lake to be kept free of algae or weeds if part of the maintenance is your responsibility.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	5	4	9

2. I would like the association to discourage boats that are of high speed, noise-producing boats on the lake.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3	3	3	5	11

3. I would like to see ways that lake neighbors could band together to prevent geese from being a nuisance.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
10	3	13	5	2

4. If the LOIA offered lake access to non-motorized boats (kayaks, canoes, etc.) for residents on Lake Road, I would enjoy using it.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	3	4	5	5

5. I would like to see the association sponsor speakers and other educational events addressing the many wildlife aspects of the lake, as well as the surrounding environment.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
2	1	7	14	4

6. I would like to see the LOIA sponsor more social events for adults.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
4	3	12	4	4

7. I would like the LOIA to sponsor more social events for children on the lake area.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	10	10	4

8. I would like to see the LOIA encourage members to make use of the lake and be affected by sponsoring a fun event or activity.

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
3	1	14	10	1

Please complete the survey, add any comments on the back, and return it with your payment for membership dues and, if applicable, your lakefront association fee. **Funds and surveys are due by March 31, 2026.** Mail or deliver to:

Jen McFadden, Treasurer 56 Elm Dr Westerly, NY 11101