

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Friday, August 9, 2019

The *vision* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is a healthy properly functioning watershed. This vision is of streams, wetlands, riparian forests, upland forests/trees, Oswego Lake, and other natural resources working together as a sustainable ecological system that supports good water quality, productive habitat for native plant and animal communities, and enhanced quality of life.

The *mission* of the Oswego Lake Watershed Council is to foster stewardship, education, participation, and financial support for the purpose of the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and maintenance of watershed functions that achieve and sustain a healthy watershed.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Mike Buck, Thomas Benson, Mary Ratcliff, Tom Berridge and Mark Rosenkranz. Barbara was facilitating our meeting since our Chair, Stephanie Wagner, could not be present. Our Project Coordinator, Patrick Blanchard was in attendance and our guests are Denny Barnes and Laurent Nickel. Denny, a retired diplomat, lives in Village on the Lake and is interested in stewardship on the two acres of HOA natural open space there. Denny had worked on Tryon Creek watershed. Laurent is the certified pesticide applicator that Lake Corp uses. Laurent has experience with invasive removal and is licensed for such work.

2. Operations

- **Minutes: July 19, 2019 minutes were unanimously approved.**

Resolved:

- **Finance Report: Since Tom and Stephanie were not present, no Financial Report was given.**

3 Reports

- **Watershed Coordinator:** Patrick said our three interns were “working on the ground” in seven different project areas. He himself is transitioning and preparing to move to Vermont. He reported that Megan Big John has processed a check for the last HEF grant in mid-July which entails funding in the amount of \$9,000 for Park Academy, Gans and Wembley Park Road project areas. In terms of applicants for his position, Stephanie had said that she has one application received so far. Mary said another person from Tualatin Hills may be submitting her application also.
- **Climate Action Plan:** Mary printed off and distributed a page on i-Tree data base. She said each project has its own dashboard. The first “dry run” will be at Westlake project on August, 15th, Thursday at 9:30am. She is continuing to investigate how best to calculate the height of individual trees. The biomass calculation is significant data for climate action needs. Zsolt will share a diameter tape which helps simplify measurements. Those calculating will also need to get a crown width for the individual measured trees. Mary mentioned that photo points could also be taken at this same time and four or five were deemed sufficient for the Westlake site. How

to account for saving the oaks requires more thought, Mary said. She wants to set up links that comes up to browsers and allows log-in to collect data and submit to i-Tree system. Mary is still investigating best practices in regard to this. i-Tree is used by the U.S. Forest Service and arborists. Hopefully, we will be able to capture data, like for sequestration, for analysis to aid in effective climate action planning.

- **Tree Summit:** Mike reported that the Committee's planning for this October 5th event was progressing well. The first two hours will be with our own Stephanie and Zsolt at the helm presenting the "benefits" and "stewardship" aspects of trees. Only part of each hour will be presentation since an interactive component is worked into each hour. Mike is looking for a trained mediator to handle the last hour on "next steps" for how our community preserves and conserves trees and our urban forest. The concentration in this last interactive hour turns to engagement and involvement in positive, creative ways that people are willing to explore together. Very illustrative posters have been created for marketing this event in the community. The hope is to have at least eighty people register.

- **Hallinan Woods Acquisition:** Jim said there was an effort in his neighborhood to acquire the Yates property. Transactions between the City and the owners have not culminated in any purchase. No new word on this negotiating history—most of which remains privileged. Though the site has been approved for six home sites, the owners have not followed through with development plans. Since no grant money is still available for Yates site, no further physical work is planned at this time. Jim is working with Patrick and our intern, Pilar, at Park Academy. They discussed where to put the photo points, and Jim also explained the apparatus or materials for marking the photo point sites. The intent is to use this tracking help on all our project parcels. Jim did have one mishap at Gans where some chain saw work is continuing on invasive small growth—he lost a hearing aid! Non-native cherry trees are being removed that had been planted by permission from the owner Dina McNally. Some compensation will be given for the cherry and currant plants. Barbara read a note of gratitude from Dina McNally.

- **Stewardship Committee:** Barbara explained the continuing work of this Committee as it seeks to improve and refine our internal processes for best management and accountability on our project sites. Barb briefed the Board on newly created forms for site management and for project site evaluation. Jim and Mike will do the site assessment for Village on the Lake HOA and be utilizing these new instruments. Stephanie has set up a Google Doc drive structure for keeping documentation.

4. New Business

- **Herbicide spraying contract:** Laurent Nickel met with Stephanie to review what needs the OLWC has for application. He has the proper license to operate and we have the proper insurance for coverage. He has come to this board meeting in order to meet everyone and exchange emails and set up meeting times. Westlake, Gans, and Wembley sites are under consideration for herbicide application. Laurent did exchange his email with members. Tom wondered if winter spraying was optimal. Laurent responded that temperatures over 50 degrees are preferred for treatment and that his spraying would be targeted. A member asked if Westlake's acreage

would necessitate more than one herbicide applicant for coverage. Laurent said he would have to check out the site and evaluate the scope. The plan would be for OLWC to employ Laurent since this would be cost-effective. And before proceeding with this employment possibility, Stephanie wanted to have the Council meet Laurent. Stephanie does have equipment and chemicals stored at her house.

- **Restoration at Village on the Lake:** Denny Barnes from this HOA and an adjacent neighbor to the site said he thought the open space was about four acres in size. He described it as a basin with a high rocky ridge on three sides. His own residence is at 15545 Village Park Court. Whether this “bowl” shape contours is natural or artificial is not known to him though he certainly expressed interest in ascertaining the evolution of its current shape. This open space does contain the headwaters for Lily Pond Creek, an intermittent stream. Denny characterized the space as a great habitat area and his intent is to be a good steward. Jim and Mike will follow up with Denny to arrange a site visitation to this “green bowl.”

5. Old Business

- **Hiring Patrick’s replacement:** Tom, Jim, Mike and Stephanie have offered supportive roles for reading applications and helping to interview candidates.
- **End of summer get-together:** August 23rd is Patrick’s last official day with us. Stephanie will host a pot-luck at her home on Thursday, August 22nd at 6:00pm.
- **Supporting IRCO interns:** Cindy is back. A meeting on Friday is set for Stephanie’s around noon. Also a macroinvertebrate study will take place next week along with a water quality sampling study with Lake Corp. The interns have been invited to the going away barbecue party.
- **Safety Procedures:** The Stewardship Committee will be putting a document together on recommended procedures. Signs have been made for placement on sites when herbicide application is being used. Another member recommended having “OLWC” patches on vests for members to wear when working on sites.

6. Public Announcement: Mary mentioned a linkage between climate action concerns and agriculture.

7. Meeting Adjourns at 9:20am.

Next Meeting: Friday, September 13, 2019