

OSWEGO LAKE WATERSHED COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, September 10, 2021

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: (Online attendance) Stephanie Wagner, Dwight Sangrey, Mike Buck, Mary Ratcliff, Jim Fisher, Barbara Fisher, Tom Berridge, Tom Bland, Denny Barnes, Larry Zucher, Gabe Winfrey, Thomas Benson, Mary Ratcliff; with Jack Halsey, Watershed Coordinator and Allie Molen, Community Outreach Specialist, and Laurent Nickel. Stephanie had members introduce themselves for our new intern assistant, Kirsten Wright who has finished a graduate program at PSU in Environmental Management and now offers her professional assistance to our endeavors.

For an icebreaker, Jack led us in a “Jamboard” experience on DEI. Members were able to see how their counterparts conceptualized these pertinent identity and connectivity topics.

2. Operations

- **Minutes for July, 2021 were unanimously approved. No meeting in August but Jack issued a staff report.**
- **Finance Report:** Tom went over the Profit and Loss statements for January-June of this year giving us an assessment of our budgeting to date. He said we were in “good shape” with \$49,807.70 in our account. The Finance Committee meets quarterly and members are punctilious about placing expenses in the right category. Tom says that we will need to do a donation push during this last quarter till the end of the year. Mary has already participated with her donation!
- **Board Hours Tracking request**

3. Staff Reports

Watershed Coordinator--Jack

- **Updates from Internship:** Jack reported that Elijah is available to do some more work and is flexible for one more month. Liliana has already returned to high school but may help out with more tree surveys. He was grateful for their participation in stewardship work at Westlake as well as maintenance and control activities on a couple other sites.
- **Summer Project Updates:** Jack is planning for fall and winter activities which includes plant ordering and the continuing oak release work scheduled for October. This will wrap up the second half of remedial ash tree termination. Laurent will also be contracted for herbicide treatment on remaining thistle and ivy as well as targeting hawthorne. Mike had a question regarding the correlation between planting and hydration with this summer’s record breaking temperatures and prolonged drought. Having some discussion with Parks and Recreation over coherence in BMP, data collecting, and adaptive management seems like worthy endeavors.

Community Outreach Specialist--Allie

- **UFC Revival:** Allie will be setting up a meeting in early October with respective neighborhood leaders to talk about urban forestry goals, invasive species education, iTree classes, volunteer events, climate change challenges, and tree preservation activities. She said many residents are feeling quite helpless and isolated in

trying to cope with the current environmental conditions--especially tree loss from weather and development.

- **LO Tree Trainings:** Morgan Holen and Allie will host a workshop for previously trained residents and then open it up for Urban Forest Committee members. This will be a data gathering opportunity which can be collected on a live map. Larry asked if ecology classes could be involved in this? Stephanie asked if Larry could help make the introductions of Allie with teachers for this possibility which could even involve students as young as middle school.
- **SYU Data and Next Steps:** Allie has gleaned the information from this last year so this can be continued yet reinvented and more expansive for next year.

4. Committee Reports

- **Stewardship Committee Report: No report since no August meeting was held**
- **Education and Outreach Committee:** No August meeting was held but Stephanie commented on the ongoing Tree Summit planning which will be a Zoom event with a keynote speaker. The theme will involve stewardship care in light of climate challenges. She will give an opening summation of what has constructively transpired this last year in our urban forest.
- **Governance Committee Report:** The new by-laws were included in the Agenda for Board members' review. Dwight went over what prompted this update and editing so that our current draft would be consistent with policies and practices--for instance, our acceptance of the PPP loan. The Committee is working on a new "stakeholder agreement" and this will be shared with members before the October meeting. Our required "annual meeting" will be scheduled for December of every year.

Resolution: Board members voted unanimously to accept the by-law revisions.

- **Equity Action Team:** Jack will be sending out a survey for members. He is working on relational development with partners for our organization. He will collate the survey responses and report to us at the October 8th Board meeting. Jack also mentioned the upcoming *Respond to Racism* meeting.

5. Old Business

- **City Charter Amendment--Measure #3-575:** Stephanie reported that endorsements for the Voters' Pamphlet have been sent in by our organization and the SN.
- **Jack's Review:** Stephanie has sent members the evaluative questions which can be filled out on-line and returned to her.

6. New Business

- **Site Update on the Yates Property:** Jim went over the boundary descriptions of the Yates property as it relates to Hallinan Woods. This was one of our first work projects that Adra and Mike had initiated. Though invasive removal was quite effective, planting at the site was less successful. Jim continues to monitor, collect data, remove new invasives, and track the changes the City will make regarding demolition of the house and how to connect with Friends of Hallinan Woods for ongoing restoration work. Jim sadly related the winter storm loss of huge Douglas firs and the clean-up work by Mosaic. There undoubtedly will be opportunities for new access or trails at this site so continued partnership with Parks and Recreation for a management plan will be paramount. One could tell Jim's passion and pride about these adjacent acres as he went over the history and pictures.

7. Public Comments: None

8. Meeting adjourns at 9:30am

Next Meeting: October 8, 2021 8:00am

