

## **CLCA Directors' Meeting – June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**The June 2016 Directors' meeting was called to order by President Dave Graves at 8:30 A.M.**

**Directors present were: Dick Arthur, Merryn Byrnes, Paul Corr, Henry Eifert, Allen Farber, Bill Fielding, Rick Fink, Dave Graves, Deb Hoffman, Mary Jablonski, Richard Marder, Lois Miller, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, Doug Smith, Tony Sturchio, and Shawna Thompson.**

**Directors not in attendance were: John Broderick, Ed Fake, Jim Hays, and Mark Moritz.**

**Others attendees: Michael Durkee**

### **President's Remarks**

Dave introduced invited guest Michael Durkee who has been working hand in hand with the State and the Town to get the boat wash station up and running. All Directors introduced themselves to Mike. Dave indicated that the Echo arrived a little late this year but Merryn hand delivered them to all Directors present at the meeting. Dave pointed out that we've had a number of accomplishments this year: the formation of the Canada Lakes Conservation Association, developed and approved new By-laws, we were approved under IRS code 501(c)3 as a non-profit charity, had over 150 charter members sign up over last summer and fall, and currently have 270 members with another 20 or so possible which indicates a very healthy showing for our organization.

We have been working over the winter with the DEC. A group of CLCA members met with DEC representatives and took a site trip to the West Lake boat launch with them. A letter was sent to a number of levels within the DEC with CLCA board input and recommendations on the launch site. The group did receive one response giving us a contact person an assuring us that our input had been registered and that we would have an opportunity for further input on launch planning. We also entered into a stewardship agreement with DEC, which gives our stewards coverage for workman's comp as if they were State employees. This costs our organization nothing except filling out paper work for the annual report. Mike Durkee has agreed to handle that for us. If we decide to get involved with the DEC on other projects (Island or trails) that is up to us and we would have protection through DEC for those individuals involved in those projects if we so desire. We are under no obligation and it costs us nothing.

The Lake was surveyed last summer by inspectors from the Adirondack Watershed Institute and there were no invasive species found which confirmed the results of the Darien Freshwater Institute, which was done in 2013.

## **Secretary's Report**

Deb asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes as emailed. There were none. A motion to accept the minutes was made by Lois Miller and seconded by Paul Corr.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Paul handed out the balance sheet as of June 15, 2016, which indicated total liabilities and equity of \$48,778.95.

Paul informed the group that we are a tax-exempt organization under 501(c)3 that was effective last year. Filings with both the IRS and NYS were done in May. We are on a calendar year and so we will file again next year for 2016.

Paul went page by page through the handout explaining the last page represents the proposed budget for 2016 which was approved at the August 2015 Directors' meeting. Since the organization is new, Paul didn't do a comparative budget. That will be done in August when we have a better idea of our expenditures. We can then look at the budget and given the resources we have there may be some changes that people suggest. Mark had indicated that the Echo funding was a little short and requested an additional \$500.00 to be added to this line item for next year. In order to approve a tentative budget for 2017, the group went line item by line item using the 2016 budget asking if the funding listed was sufficient. Lake Environment and Ecology was increased to \$150.00 and Lake Publication was set at \$1,800.00. The \$100.00 allocated for the Food Pantry was eliminated and insurance may have to be adjusted. Tony Sturchio mentioned a discussion he had recently had with Sheriff Giardino, in regards to the revival of boat patrols on the lakes. The question was raised that do we, as an organization, want to make a donation at this time. There was a concern as to whether or not these patrol boats would be washed before launching in our lake after patrolling in either the Sacandaga or Caroga Lakes. Sheriff Giardino assured Tony that would be mandated. The Sheriff was asked if the possibility of more than 4 scheduled patrol if a donation were made. Bill Fielding suggested we hold back and clarify what we need as a Lake. These patrols should benefit us. After lengthy discussion ranging from making a token donation from the CLCA to taking the wait and see approach to putting information on our website notifying individuals that donations for these patrols are being accepted. It was decided that we would wait and see if these patrols were beneficial to the well being of our Lake, though some still believed that a small contribution should be made. Mary Jablonski made a motion to make a contribution of \$75.00 to the boat patrol program. Before the motion was seconded Bill suggested the following: list dates we feel are beneficial to our Lake and also indicate that Canada Lake is presently

free of invasive species and request the boats stop at the boat wash station before entering our Lake. Mary's motion was voted on by a show of hands. Dave made another motion to inform the Sheriff's Department that the CLCA's budget was already in place for this year but we would be willing to place information for individuals to make contributions on our website. This motion was seconded by Lois Miller and was passed. Dave asked for a small group to help draft a letter to the Sheriff explaining our position. This committee will consist of Dave, Allen, Mary, and Shawna. Paul asked that the officers review the books of the organization each year. A motion was made by Rick Fink to accept the treasurer's report including the proposed budget for 2017. This motion was seconded by Lois and passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

**Nominating Committee update** – John Saunders distributed a draft of the nominating process, which would make members interested in becoming a Director aware of the procedure. A synopsis of this procedure was included in the membership packet mailed in early spring. A list would be compiled of interested individuals giving the Nominating committee names to fill potential vacancies on the Board. John would approach the Directors whose term expires that year asking if they desire to step down or continue to serve before the June Board meeting. If there are vacancies, the list will be reviewed by the Nominating Committee and the slate would then be presented to the current Board for approval. The slate would then be presented to the general membership at the annual meeting.

It was agreed upon that anyone wishing to become President of the Association serve as a Director first. The memo that John presented will be on our website thus improving communication throughout the general membership. Regarding the issue of having an officer step down but continue to serve as a Director would be to have a position in reserve. Currently one Director (Doug Smith) has expressed his desire to step down but John has another individual in mind for that opening. It was decided that there would be further discussion during the Nominating Committee report as to any final decision.

Dave then asked Mike Durkee to give an over view of the new boat wash station.

## **Boat Wash Station Update**

Mike extended sincere thanks to Tony Sturchio and Bill Fielding for playing a large role in getting the station up and running. He also expressed appreciation to the Town Board for developing a working relationship with our organization. Financing has been difficult to work out as we are dealing with two agencies with different requirements. The Mohawk River Valley Watershed Improvement (EDC) is funding the actual equipment (washer, shed, various accessories). The DEC grant will provide funding for the operation of the station. We now have four stewards – two working at the boat launch and two working at the wash station, all paid for by the Town. Mike noted the importance of the volunteers who also man the launch site.

We are mandated, in order to receive the DEC grant, to keep track of the hours worked to keep expenses separate between the boat wash station and the launch site. Mike plans to open the wash station this afternoon. He indicated that he has low expectations for the station but is confident that we will slowly build up as public education spreads. Mike admits that we will never be able to inspect every boat that enters every lake in the Adirondacks. Boaters need to assume the responsibility that their boats are cleaned, drained, and dried so that they are not moving invasive species from one lake to another. Right now we have one of the most effective programs in the Adirondacks. Jennifer Hults and Sheila Danylak are the two paid stewards at the boat launch and Jeff Nehr and Jeff Wallace are the two stewards at the boat wash station. Both gentlemen have been trained by Paul Smith's as far as the operation of the machinery. Mike invited anyone interested to come over after lunch and see the operation.

Much appreciation was expressed to Mike for all his hard work in getting this wash station in place and operational. Mike acknowledged the help of Bob Sullivan (Town Supervisor) and John Persse (Fulton County Water and Soil Conservation Department) for getting the EDC money for this project as well as finding the appropriate site for this project.

Tony shared some initial concerns about the site location as it was feared the run off from the wash station would end up in a stream west of the station, which feeds directly into Canada Lake. After much discussion and advice from several people with extensive knowledge, the problem of run off was corrected. It has now been designed to slope away from the culvert on Route 29A. Job well done to all involved!

Dave asked Mike if he had any thoughts on possible speakers for the annual meeting. Perhaps he and Bob Sullivan could give a brief overview on how the CLCA and the Town worked together to get this boat wash station in place. Dave had called Bob Sullivan but he seemed less than enthusiastic. Tony agreed to talk with Bob again. Dave then asked Mike about NYSFOLA and the ALA and would it best serve our organization to send representation. Mike indicated that NYSFOLA is a State organization broken into five regions representing all of NYS. The ALA deals with lake associations throughout the Adirondacks. The ALA has been helpful to us since its formation. Volunteers from our organization would be useful if we have anyone interested.

The group then turned their attention back to the nominating process. A minor change to the draft would be that if the President or President-Elect position were open it must be filled by a current Director. It was decided that John make some minor changes in language, email to the Directors asking for a vote in response. Once the votes have been received place the procedure on our website. John then proposed the deletion of the additional Directors paragraph and making it read that the President and/or President-Elect positions are subject to be filled by an active Director. Dave seconded the proposal and it passed unanimously. The procedure will be posted on our website. John agreed to review this new procedure at the

annual meeting before presenting the slate of Officers and Directors. Our hope is to attract new people and communicate the need for others to become involved.

There was a motion to accept the full slate, including Mike Durkee, whom will fill the vacancy created by Doug Smith's desire to step down. It was seconded and the motion passed.

### **Logo for CLCA**

Dave has been using the Island graphic created by Dick Loomis when sending out correspondence to the State and various other agencies. If no objections he would like to continue using this logo on our letterhead. There were no objections.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Lake Organization-Vice President Dick Arthur**

**Membership-Merryn Byrnes.** Merryn reported that as of this morning we have 270 members. She pointed out that last year we had 305 members, but she believes that this number represented the fact that it was a Directory year. It is quite possible that an additional 20 to 30 memberships may come in. Membership is going well. A summary of the donations given in addition to the \$30.00 membership was \$6,800.00. The breakdown is as follows: Environment and Ecology - \$20.00, Fishing - \$225.00, Fourth of July - \$1,942.50, General Fund - \$2,085.00, Invasive Species Prevention - \$2,332.50, and Youth Activities - \$200.00. There are 15 new members – one of them is the Caroga Historical Museum and another is the Pleasant Lake Association.

**Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes.** Merryn continues to participate in the CSLAP program. In addition to water sampling the program is asking that her team do a shoreline check for invasive species. A different location will be selected each time out for sampling. The paddles are in for bacteria sampling and Merryn is looking for college age folks who might be considering a career in environment or conservation to work along side of her.

**By-laws-Dick Maider.** Our bylaws were approved by this Board last August and will be presented for approval at the annual meeting. Dick will be present to answer any questions. The By-laws have been posted on our website so people have had a chance to review them before approval.

**Legal-Dick Maider.** Dick informed the group that there are no issues to report.

**Directory-Dick Arthur.** This is an off year for the Directory. Dick thanked Allen Farber for reproducing the property maps that Jack Fielding had done years ago. These maps were a highlight of the Directory. Dick also thanked Chris Rohrs for all the ads he collected from businesses. They really helped reduce the cost of the publication. Dick thanked everyone on his committee for their hard work.

**Fire Department-Alan Peck.** No report.

**Echo-Mark Moritz.** Merryn spoke about the delay in getting the Echo this year. Mark had decided to work with a printer down on Long Island, but there were issues with color quality on some pages causing the delay. Merryn had just received them Friday and they are ready to be mailed out next week.

**Nominating Committee-John Saunders.** Nothing other than what had been previously discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Website-Allen Farber.** A business card has been included with the Echo with the new website URL. Over the winter Allen updated the resource map. He explained to the group that he really depends on input from members as far as what can be added to the site. All the information anyone needs to access the website is on the new business card included with this year's copy of the Echo.

**Welcoming Committee-Lois Miller.** Lois will get information from Merryn regarding new members and will report her findings at our August meeting.

**Winter Emergency-Tony Sturchio.** A quiet winter!

## **Lake Activities – Vice President Chris Rohrs**

Chris reported that dates have been set for all activities:

Fireworks – Mike Manning – July 3<sup>rd</sup>

Safe Ski Clinic – Diana Leaf – July 9<sup>th</sup>

Ladies Luncheon – Cat Graves – July 20<sup>th</sup> – Pine Lake Lodge

CLCA Picnic – Mike and Mary Cannon – July 23<sup>rd</sup>

Youth Activities – Kathy Luttmann – Shawna Thompson is also on this committee and they have a target date for the first activity on August 6<sup>th</sup>. This will coincide with the Ice Cream Extravaganza that is hosted by the Alexander family on Green Lake.

## **Lake Management – Vice President Mary Jablonski**

**Environment and Ecology-Dave Graves.** The reconfiguration of the West Lake boat launch has been placed on hold until further notice from the DEC. There have been two visits to the site and Dave believes that we have gotten our point across. There are concerns with some of the trees on the Island looking thinly needled/stressed. A question was raised as to consideration be given to building up the shoreline. The group would like to get another expert in to look at the trees and the Island itself. Further discussion was tabled until the August meeting in hopes the DEC gets out to look at the Island.

**Fire Safety-Bill Fielding.** Bill spoke about the 911 house numbers that are being sold. They are reasonably priced and it makes it much easier for emergency personnel to get to your location quickly. Bill reported that the department responses are 90% EMT calls and 10% fire related. Bill encouraged everyone to purchase and post the house numbers where they are visible from the road. We also need to find some way to make campers aware of leaving the site with a hot fire. One ground fire was reported last summer in the Black Bay area.

**Fishing-Doug Smith.** With the \$1,000.00 that was allocated in our budget 250 rainbow trout were released into Green Lake. Through a donation of the Pine Tree Rifle Club of \$100.00 an additional 25 rainbow trout were stocked. Since 2009 there have been 3,054 fish stocked; 2,824 rainbow and 230 brook trout. Doug has seen evidence that these fish do migrate between lakes.

**Lake Safety-Tony Sturchio.** Nothing to report.

**Property Assessment-Linda Clark.** No report.

**Water Level-Bill Fielding and Henry Eifert.** Mark Van Duesen continues to take care of things before anything happens. Mark has done a wonderful job and we need to continue to be proactive. Nothing has been done regarding the automated gate at the Dam. Bill asked to back up to Water Purity for a moment. He wanted to make people aware that the Town is considering a sewage filtration plant. When discussion at the Town Board meeting came up regarding the location of this plant with the possibility of the by-products being dumped into Mead Creek, which eventually flows into East Caroga Lake. Tony, Jay Manning, and Beth Morris voted against thus defeating any further plans at this time. However, Bill believes strongly that our organization needs to pay close attention to the possibility of this plan resurfacing in the future. We were asleep at the switch when the Town let National Grid pull out the dam at Irving Pond, so we must be vigilant when it comes to the potential placement of a sewage treatment plant.

**Adopt a Shoreline-Deb Hoffman.** Sign was put up Memorial Day weekend. Deb has only made one trip around the shores but things look debris free at the moment.

**Adopt a Highway-John Broderick.** Lois reported that Frank and Lilka Lichtneger won't be at the Lake much this summer due to some health issues. As Lilka was the person in charge of calling people to help with the pickups, we are in need of someone to fill this spot. John Saunders agreed to contact John Broderick to see how he wanted to handle scheduling a pickup. Tony wondered if the highway sign should be changed to reflect our new organization. John Broderick will be contacted.

**Campsites-Betsy Cannon.** The campsites look to be in good shape. There was a report of one having a broken picnic table. All agree we need to check the site after campers leave to make sure that all fires have been completely extinguished.

**Fire Tower-Tim Mitchell.** Bill Fielding reported that the tower is in good shape. The cabin is not! The State may eventually take it down. If anyone does walk up, take a plastic bag to pick up any trash, but Bill said the trail is relatively clean.

**Island-Rick Fink.** Nothing other than what was discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Invasive Species-Mike Durkee and Marcus Harazin.** Mike had left after his presentation of the boat wash station but Mary reported that at yesterday's meeting Mike indicated that there was a need for more volunteers at the launch site. Mike also noted that there are several areas not being monitored by the Lake Inspectors.

## **Annual Meeting Agenda Ideas**

Possibilities:

Speakers- Bob Sullivan and Michael Durkee talking about the Town and our Association working together to get the boat wash station in the Town. John Byrnes, who is a member of the team that treats the streams that flow into Canada Lake for black fly larvae. Sheriff Giardino speaking about the renewal of the boat patrols on the lakes in Fulton County.

The group decided that two speakers would be enough for one evening but perhaps the Sheriff could speak at the next Directors' meeting in August. Tony still felt that we as an organization should make a donation to this program. It was suggested that it could be added to the membership packet line items so that interested parties could make donations through their membership dues. It was finally decided after much discussion that we, as a Board, will take a "wait and see" approach. It was decided that at the annual meeting we will let people know that these boat patrols will be on our Lake and also give information on the website that donations are being accepted for this program.

Additional ideas for the agenda were: the By-laws and the new nomination process.

Motion to adjourn was made at 11:25 A.M.

Respectively submitted,

Deb Hoffman - Secretary



