

CLCA Directors' Meeting – August 20, 2016

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Graves at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 20, 2016.

The following Directors were present: Dick Arthur, Paul Corr, Michael Durkee, Henry Eifert, Allen Farber, Jim Hays, Deb Hoffman, Mary Jablonski, Richard Maider, Lois Miller, Mark Moritz, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, Tony Sturchio, and Shawna Thompson.

Those absent were: John Broderick, Merryn Byrnes, Ed Fake, Bill Fielding, and Rick Fink.

Others in attendance: Christine Moritz and Richard Giardino

President's Remarks-

Dave reminded everyone that the CLCA was formed for two reasons: one for conservation of the lakes and two for safety and helping to education people about lake safety. Over the course of this year we have put into place a very strong organization. Dave introduced Sheriff Giardino who informed the group of bringing back to life the boat safety patrol. Rich explained that the purpose of restarting this program is not to raise revenue for the department but to promote boat safety. A question was raised as to how we, as an organization, should handle incidents of skiers just at sunset. Rich explained that if it's an isolated incident, the sheriff's office can be called and a patrol car would be sent to the address reported. If there seems to be a pattern, i.e. every Saturday or even nightly, then the Sheriff would send a boat out if specific times were reported. Mike Durkee thanked Rich for the increased road patrol presence on the road to the boat launch. The stewards appreciated it. Rich said that plans for next year are to continue and hopefully do a bit more as reimbursement from the State has been secured. A comment was made in reference to a rumored increase in the number of boats coming in to our lake as a result of increased sheriff patrols on Sacandaga Reservoir. Rich assured everyone that was not his intention. Mary asked if there was a way to contact the patrol once the boat was launched. Rich indicated that you would have to contact through 911 if it was an emergency. He didn't believe radio frequency was available. The boats do have a scan frequency. Additional funding is very important to increase services. Rich believes in this project and would be very appreciative of any monetary support.

Secretary's Report-

Deb asked if there were any corrections or addition to the minutes as emailed. Lois had brought one to Deb's attention and this had been corrected. There were no

other changes. Lois made a motion to accept, motion was seconded by Paul and the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report-

Paul distributed the balance sheet as of August 20th, the profit and loss by class sheet as well as the proposed budget for 2017. Paul went over our balance sheet and the profit and loss sheet and indicated the numbers were right on. Chris asked if it wouldn't be best to approve a preliminary budget for the following year since situation is likely to change by next summer. Paul agreed and as he looked at the sheet right then there are some things that need to be changed. We are a new organization, so voting on a preliminary budget for the following year makes the most sense. It was decided that at the June 2017 meeting we would approve a preliminary budget for the upcoming year (2018).

Paul then raised some questions on the actual 2017 budget sheet. Fire Tower and Fire Pump Maintenance – is this used and is it an appropriate amount? It was suggested that Paul contact Bill regarding this line item, but we will leave it as is for now. Paul asked about the Kane Mountain patch money – does this cover any maintenance, etc.? No one seemed to remember the initial reason for setting this up as a restricted fund. The fund has built up over the years but there is no clear understanding as to how to expend it. Paul asked if we could move this to the General Fund. It is presently listed as a restricted fund. It was decided that Chris, Paul, and Merryn would discuss how to move forward with where this would be placed in the budget. Paul questioned funding for the Sailing Club. Is there any activity in this area? Lois agreed to check with Courtney and get back to Paul regarding these funds. Flares-we are down to placing flares on the Island once a year and he will check with Bill as to whether the amount listed in the budget is sufficient. Paul indicated that the Annual Picnic fund has been increased to \$1,000.00. We have allocated \$200.00 for the Ladies Luncheon and Social but it appears that \$100.00 is sufficient based on the receipts received. It was agreed that \$150.00 would be allotted for these events as not all receipts had made their way to Paul. Paul then suggested that we remove the contingency fund, as there is plenty of money in the unrestricted fund. All agreed. Regarding the Adirondack Lakes Association, CSLAP, and NYSFOLA the dues have been paid so we are all set on those items. ALA, we are members and need to keep this as a line item at \$75.00. ALAP will be \$250.00 and entered as a separate line item under "Water Quality". Membership mailing should be increased from \$500.00 to \$900.00. We will remove "Safety Reward". The sign needs to be reprinted with the Association's name. Mike Durkee will take care of this. As far as getting the new signs to all members, it was suggested that each Director take an area around the Lake and hand them out to each household thus saving on mailing costs. The sign will now read Canada Lakes Conservation Association and the rest of the wording will remain the same. The Volunteer Recognition amount will remain. Shawna asked that she purchase a reflective vest for an individual who has participated in 30 highway pick-ups over the years. The cost is \$8.00 and all agreed to the purchase. Under Fire Department,

the amount will remain at \$100.00 and we will make an additional \$150.00 donation for a plaque bearing our Association's name that shows our support for the new fire-house. Donation to the Caroga Historical Museum will remain at \$50.00. Meeting expenses will remain the same. Listed under Office Expenses government filings have been reduced to \$50.00 and Printing and Copying has been modified to \$200.00. Listed under CLCA receipts, Paul felt that the numbers were good under Membership and Donations. Conservation Patches was revised to \$100.00 and Special Events were removed. All felt that we now have a new budget except for Insurance.

In regard to insurance, we are running into a problem. There are no issues getting Directors and Officers insurance. The problem is with general liability. Paul reported that we have been turned down by two companies, but he is in the process of dealing with a third company. Paul believes that the problem lies with Water Ski/Safety Clinic since this is conducted on the water. Hearn Agency has handled our insurance in the past but with a new organization comes a new application. We need to have insurance for the events that we sponsor however if the "fly in the ointment" is the Water Ski Clinic perhaps we can no longer sponsor it. Shawna told the group that you can get a policy for a one day event, so this may be something to consider. Shawna offered to look into the possibility of getting coverage for a one day event rather than canceling the event altogether. It was decided that as of right now, the \$1,250.00 allotted for insurance in the budget would remain and that we will continue to pursue a policy. At the Annual meeting we will do a preliminary approval of all members and then update the budget based on the actual receipts and expenditures. Lois made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report seconded by Dick Maider. All approved.

Nominating Committee-John Saunders

John reported that his committee had sent out an email to all Directors whose terms were expiring to determine if any openings were available. He had heard from everyone except Bill Fielding but would reach out to him. The next step will be an email to the general membership letting them know of any opening allowing them to express their interest in becoming a Director. John will then bring a slate to the June 2017 meeting so that there would be a proposed slate to present at the annual meeting in July. Doug Smith is the only reported Director stepping down and Mike Durkee is filling that slot. Dick Arthur is stepping down as VP of Lake Organization but would like to continue as a Director. Presently there are no openings. Chris Rohrs will take Dick's slot and Allen Farber will take over as VP of Lake Activities. Mary Jablonski will continue as VP of Lake Management. These changes will be integrated into the newsletter as well as John's email to the general membership.

Old Business

Island Update-Earlier this summer there were reports of some trees on the Island looking stressed. Possible causes included heavy usage, changing water levels, a stressful freeze-thaw cycle and natural erosion. The Environment/Ecology

committee linked up with the Island Committee to review options. We contacted representatives of the DEC, Fulton County Soil and Water, arborists, and landscapers to determine what we could do about this problem. It was determined that we do have an issue due to the above mentioned factors. The recommendations received were to have a licensed technician fertilize the white pines. A second option would be to apply a thin layer of a mixture of compost, peat moss and sand covering this with hay. This process would provide soil regeneration. The procedure could be performed on September 24th and 25th if approved. Cost would be approximately \$250.00. All agreed that we have reached the point that we need to do something or we could lose these trees. A third consideration is to not encourage dock access for a year. A final consideration is to create an outreach program requesting cooperation from our residents and guests as to our preservation and cleanliness efforts. This would include encouraging bringing kindling/firewood to the Island for any fires and secondly an outreach to our younger residents as to how they could partner with us to reach our goal. Dave asked for discussion. Shawna made a motion that we go ahead with the fertilization and the compost, peat moss and sand treatment in the fall and to revisit the dock situation in the spring. Mary seconded this motion. There was more discussion regarding the sparseness of vegetation. Rick had planted 6 more trees earlier this summer and reported that some of the branches had already been broken off probably to be used for kindling. If we decide to forego the dock next year a sign might be posted letting people know that Island restoration is in progress. Tony Sturchio made a motion that we forego putting in the dock at the Island for one year and place a sign indicating Island Restoration. This motion was seconded and the motion was carried unanimously. Rick will head up this committee and Dave will contact the DEC for an "Island Restoration in Progress" sign.

CLCA funding for the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program-The proposal is to do some addition water testing in Canada Lake. Dave has discussed this with Merryn and she fully supports this program. We already participate in CSLAP and NYSFOLA program and the results can be found on our website. There is another program that focuses only on Adirondack Lakes. Our organization has not participated in this program but samples have been taken and sent to the State for the last 13 years. The cost of this sampling has been absorbed by lake resident James Long, who believes strongly in the importance of this program. This report (including data for Canada Lake) is also available on our website. James had approached Dave asking if our organization would be willing to pick up the cost (\$250.00 per year) for this program. He indicated that he would be willing to continue to do the sampling but would like someone within our organization to be trained in this process. James would like to train a volunteer in the equipment use and sampling procedure. Pine Lake is involved in testing and next year both East and West Caroga Lakes will participate. James has trained volunteers in those organizations. Dave read Merryn's written report (Water Purity), which fully supports becoming involved in this program. Dave made a motion that we fund ALAP testing, Jim Hays seconded the motion and all present agreed. There was a question concerning cost of the test equipment and Dave indicated that once we

assume responsibility for testing James will provide us with equipment. Paul noted that the budget must be adjusted under "Water Quality Monitoring" from \$300.00 to \$550.00.

Removal of Adopt Shoreline sign-Deb reported that a Lake resident had removed the sign located across from Picnic Rock as we enter Lily Lake. Deb indicated that another individual had expressed displeasure with the placement of the sign after the annual meeting. Deb reported that at Dave's suggestion, she would contact John Desantis asking the State to add a sign to the launch area containing a message similar to "carry in – carry out" in order to cut down on debris dumped along State land bordering our Lakes.

Committee Reports

Lake Activities – Vice President Chris Rohrs

Chris reported that all planned events went well and were well attended. The only event that he had no information on was the Ski Clinic. The event had been rescheduled for early August but no other info had been provided. Lois read a note she had received from Bonnie Buchner thanking the Association for the wonderful birthday cake and kind wishes. The cake was presented to Bonnie at the previous year's annual picnic. Chris reported that the Cannon's have agreed to host the 2017 picnic and the Alexander's and their committee, were set for next year's Ice Cream Extravaganza. Shawna reported that Kathy Luttmann no longer wishes to chair Youth Activities so we are looking for help with this committee. Mary reported that a large amount of canned goods had been collected at the Ladies Luncheon and delivered to the North Bush Methodist Church to help stock their food pantry.

Lake Management – Vice President Mary Jablonski

-Environment and Ecology-Dave Graves. Dave reported that there will be no expansion of the West Lake boat launch at this time. Expansion of the launch as part of the DEC's Ferris Lake Unit Management Plan had been on hold pending recommendations for expanding recreational opportunities outlined in the recently released Great South Woods Report. The boat launch was not mentioned in the report. The major impact in our area would be an expansion of the trail system north of our lakes. Jim Hays added that the group also discussed the possibility of conducting a zooplankton/phytoplankton survey of the lakes. These form a basis of the lake's food chain. Since we already have a fish stocking program Jim felt that by doing this survey it would give us a baseline to compare our lake with other Adirondack lakes for which similar surveys have been conducted. The cost would be roughly \$1,000.00 (a one shot deal). Mike Durkee made the motion to move forward with this plankton survey and the motion was seconded by Mark Moritz. All but one was in favor. Jim agreed to find out the exact cost in order to move forward. Chris volunteered to find out whether the patch money could be used as

possible funding or perhaps a State grant could be applied for. Paul indicated that the Association is in good shape to fund this survey and asked that Jim nail down the cost before placing it in the 2017 budget.

-Fire Safety-no report given

-Fishing-Doug Smith has agreed to stay on as chairman of this committee and reported that there was \$250.00 available for fall stocking.

-Lake Safety-no report given

-Assessment-Mary had spoken with Linda Clark and indicated that there was nothing new to report.

Stewardships

Adopt a Highway-Shawna reported that she had arranged one pick up. She ordered bags, which were delivered and the bags from the pick up had been collected by DOT.

Shoreline-previously discussed in the minutes

Campsites-Lois reported that campers were very resourceful. They had placed a rock under the broken leg of the picnic table. The sites were in good shape.

Fire Tower-Tim continues to check on things

-Water Level-Bill Fielding. Dave reported that the water is two tenths of a foot high as of yesterday. It had been six tenths of a foot and continues to go down.

-Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes. Through not present Merryn had sent in the following report: "Water sampling for the CSLAP program is ongoing, as well as the E-coli monitoring. There is nothing alarming to note with either program. As will likely be mentioned in the Environment and Ecology committee report, James Long has been collecting water samples individually for the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program and paying for it out of his own pocket. Some of the data collected overlaps with the CSLAP program, however having extra sets of data, as well as additional parameters would be valuable to all organizations, and therefore I think the CLCA should support both programs. I am under the impression that James would like to control whoever takes over the sampling with this program, and while my husband and I are both knowledgeable and trained in sampling protocol, we would be overjoyed to have more members on our committee.

-Invasive Species-Mike indicated that boat traffic at the launch had begun to slow down because of the rainy weekends we've experienced. Stewards have inspected 760 boats so far this season. We will continue a six -day a week program through Labor Day and then go to weekends only with the paid stewards. Hours

will be eight to five. At the boat wash station traffic has increased. Just over a hundred boats have gone through this year. Mike had put out some smaller road signs throughout the town to encourage usage. There is a promise that DEC/DOT will change the large sign to read "Boat Wash" station but that change is unlikely to occur this year. Mike also reported that there was an old CSLAP report that indicated findings of brittle naiad in Canada Lake. When questioned, a researcher from DEC went back, found the sample from 1997 and realized that the sample had been erroneously identified. This will be corrected in the reports. Unfortunately this information was published in a pamphlet put out by the Stewarts Landing/Pleasant Lake people. They have been advised of the error and will make the necessary correction. Mike is looking into replacing the tent at the launch with a shed that can be transported to the boat wash site for storage during the off- season. The shed would offer substantially better shelter from the elements and could house a lock area that would secure the various materials used by volunteers and stewards on a daily basis. Mike will bring this up to his committee when it meets next week.

Lake Organization-Vice President Dick Arthur

-Adirondack Lakes Association-Jim Hays. Dave and Jim went to a meeting in July that was very well attended. An issue that should be of concern to us is the report of an insect that is attacking hemlocks. The destruction caused by this insect is already evident in the Catskills. Professor Mike Whitmore is now breeding a predator to combat this insect. It is believed that this infestation is moving north and could have an affect on the Adirondacks. At the moment there is no evidence of this but we need to remain vigilant. Jim also had concerns regarding DEC promoting increased usage of the Park through the Great South Woods program. Our boat launches are not manned for substantial amounts of time from the beginning of September until ice covers the streams and in the spring once the ice leaves until the first of June. DEC will not provide manpower though promoting use and Jim's thoughts are that perhaps the ALA might promote protection to balance the potential increase to us. Jim has written to the head of the ALA as to whether they would be interested but has received no response to date. The CLCA would work with or through the ALA. Mike likes the idea of going through the ALA since they are intended to be an advocate for the Adirondack region as we have no standing to press statewide issues with DEC.

-Bylaws-Dick Maider. Dick reported we are all set with the bylaws.

-Directory-Dick Arthur. Dick reported that this is an off year for the Directory. The next edition will come out in 2020. In an unrelated subject Dick told the group about a website (www.lightningmaps.org.) where you can track lightning strikes in real time. Dick discovered in during the storm that went through the area earlier this summer. Dick suggested that the site be placed on our website.

-Fire Department-Alan Peck. The department hopes that everyone is getting their fire numbers installed.

-Echo-Mark Moritz. Mark handed out the deadline schedule for next year's publication. Mark thanked the Board for approval of extra funds. He indicated that he would like the committee member lists as early as possible. Christine asked that anyone who took photos of the various activities throughout the summer to send them to her. With the extra funding more pictures can be added to the publication. The group applauded Mark and Christine for their efforts in another great Echo.

-Membership Committee-Merryn Byrnes. Though not present at the meeting, Merryn sent in the following report: "Current membership status is 289 members. Last year we had 303 members, 14 members short of a record set in 2015. This high membership count was likely due to the release of the much-anticipated new 2015 Directory.

Lois Miller is still working on closing this gap, but I believe that the number is right in line with recent years for memberships. I calculate that only 28% of property owners currently did not join the Association and note that this includes all potential Stewart's Landing properties, in which many have never joined in the past.

Donation summary for 2016 as of August 20th is as follows: Environment/Ecology (Monarch Project)- \$20.00, Fish Stocking - \$225.00, Fourth of July Fund - \$2,127.50, General Fund - \$2,195.00, Invasive Species - \$2,467.50, and Youth Activities - \$220.00.

Note that the Fourth of July Fund is at \$2,137.50, down almost \$1,000.00 from last year. If this year's donation is relying solely on the contributions, it looks like next year's show will be one-third less spectacular. One suggestion Merryn had was to send an email in the newsletter about needing more funds to secure next year's show. It's better to reach members now than before they leave for the season. A collection jar could be left at the store or checks can be given to me at the store.

In regards to membership dues, Merryn felt \$30.00 general membership is still sufficient. 78% of members give a least the \$50.00 Friend of the Lake membership and Merryn believes that our income over the past several years has exceeded our expectation.

Merryn also requested that the Board look at the four specific committees in which we would like to earmark funds for next year. She also asked if people felt there should be changes made to the membership form that is sent out to members in March."

-Website-Allen Farber. Allen reported that he has been busy keeping the calendar up to date and providing the weekly newsletter to members. Everyone agreed that the newsletter was a wonderful addition to the website.

-Welcoming Committee-Lois Miller. Lois reported that she had contacted all new members from the list she had received. Shawna noted that there was one new family on West Lake. Lois will get in touch with them but was in need of some materials for the packet.

-Winter Committee-Tony Sturchio. Nothing to report

Dave asked that the following 2017 calendar be approved:

June

Sunday, June 25th – Directors’ Meeting – 8:30 A.M. – 117 Channel Road

July

Monday, July 3rd – Flares/4th of July Celebration – 9:30 P.M.

Saturday, July 8th – Ski/Wakeboard Safety Clinic – Location TBA

Saturday, July 8th – CLCA Annual Meeting – 7 P.M. at Caroga Town Hall

Wednesday, July 19th – Ladies Luncheon – Pine Lake Lodge

Saturday, July 22nd – CLCA Picnic – 1-4 P.M. Location: Mike and Mary Cannon’s on Fulton Rd.

August

Saturday, August 5th – Ice Cream Extravaganza – 2-4 P.M. Location: Alexander’s Camp on Green Lake

Saturday, August 19th – Directors’ Meeting - 8:30 A.M. Location TBA

September

Saturday, September 2nd – Flare Lighting – 9 P.M.

The 2017 calendar was approved.

Dave asked that we table funding for the sheriff’s boat patrol until next June. Some believed that we should make a donation so that the patrolling of the Lake continues. It is believed that if we table this until next June we will have a better idea of county funding. Dave realizes that there are very strong feelings from Board members and the Lake community but he wished to table any further discussion or debate until the first Directors’ meeting in June of 2017. Perhaps if we continue to

remind people that the Sheriff's Department patrol boat has been on the Lake and we put the word out via our newsletter and in the Echo, people will realize it has the support of the Association. It was decided that there are still differing opinions on this matter and that more time for discussion should be put off until next June.

Lois made the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dick Marder and all agreed.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Hoffman – Secretary