

Minutes from the August 19th, 2017 Directors' Meeting

The following Directors were in attendance: Paul Corr, Mike Durkee, Henry Eifert, Ed Fake, Allen Farber, Bill Fielding, Deb Hoffman, Dave Graves, Mary Jablonski, Dick Maider, Lois Miller, Mark Moritz, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, and Tony Sturchio.

Directors unable to attend: Dick Arthur, John Broderick, Merryn Byrnes, Rick Fink, Jim Hays, and Shawna Thompson.

Guests: Margaret Lawrence and Eric Manning.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35A.M. by President Chris Rohrs. Chris thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve as President. He acknowledged the great leadership and teamwork that our organization has had for a long time. These are Chris' goals especially the teamwork and communication. Chris thanked Dave for all of his help in making a smooth transition. Chris announced that John Broderick has resigned due to poor health and shared a letter that will be sent to John thanking him for his many years of service to our organization. Chris welcomed Eric Manning to the meeting.

Secretary's Report-

Deb asked the group if there were any correction that needed to be made to the minutes as emailed. There were none and a motion was made by Lois, seconded by Ed to accept the minutes as emailed.

Treasurer's Report-

Paul indicated that he will email everyone a complete and accurate financial report. Generally speaking we are doing well. Cash is over \$49,000.00 and of that \$25,000.00 plus is in our money market fund, nearly \$24,000.00 in the checking account of which about \$10,000.00 is unrestricted with the remaining amount restricted. As of today there are a few things to reconcile, a few bills to pay and then Paul will get something precise out to everyone. As authorized, Paul reported that he has sent out checks of \$100.00 to the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Caroga Lake Historical Museum. Paul also indicated that the 4th of July Celebration has been paid in full (\$4,000.00).

In terms of the 2018 budget there will not be a big difference from the 2017 budget. There has been a request to increase funding for the Boat Parade by \$100.00. When Paul sends out the final budget he will mention any changes. Paul assured everyone that there would be no dramatic changes.

Continuing Business-

Eagle Scout Project-Philip Leveritt has completed all but the final phase of his campsite project. The new picnic tables have been made and only delivery to the sites remain. Rick Fink has put Phillip in contact with Mike Manning and they will make arrangements to deliver the tables to site. Lois indicated that the Lily Lake site looks great. Campers are taking excellent care of that location.

Information Sheet for Renters and Owners-John Saunders, Allen Farber, and Dave Graves have drafted a piece that should help owners and renters know acceptable/not acceptable practices on and around the Lake. Chris passed out copies but indicated that we will not approve it today, as the committee would like Director input before finalizing. Tony asked if it wouldn't be a good idea to advise people who are swimming alone away from shore to have something in tow. They are very difficult to see. He thought it would be a good idea to place it in the information sheet for Owners and Renters.

Prevention of Wakes during High Lake Level-Mike Durkee reported that he went to see Dan Rooney (Rooney's Signs) and together they came up with the following signage that will be posted if Lake levels become hazardous: **CAUTION** (red letters) HIGH WATER LEVELS, PLEASE REDUCE WAKES TO PREVENT SHORELINE EROSION. The CLCA name will be at the bottom of the sign. One will be kept in the shed at the boat launch, the other given to Bill to be posted at the Store's docks. Mike reported that the signs would cost \$60.00 each plus the green metal posts. A question was raised as to what constitutes "high water"? It was decided that six inches above summer level would justify putting the signs out. Mike will take care of the sign at the boat launch and Bill will take care of the one at the Store. People will be encouraged to use common sense. A motion was made by Dave Graves to spend \$150.00 for two (2) "No Wake" signs and seconded by Lois Miller. The motion passed unanimously.

CLCA Reward Signs-There has been requests from members to obtain more than one reward sign. After discussion it was decided they should be given out as requested until they're gone. These signs have proven to be effective leading to the arrest in several incidents.

Dam Repair Project-Dave reviewed a letter we had received from the State on July 26th informing us that work would be done in the fall and that the water level would be drawn down beginning October 1st. This was the only information provided to us. We were able to go online and request the bid documents from contractors that were expected to submit bids to the State. It spoke of dual systems (one automated, one manual) that would control the level in the pool. The State has determined that this is not a high-risk dam but one that needs to be refurbished. After obtaining this information we sent a letter back to the State requesting further information as far as what they had taken into account when planning this project. To date we have had no response. What we do know is that the bids came in 75% over the maximum

budget that the State anticipated and it appears likely that this project will be postponed. We will wait to get an official letter from the State and then communicate the content to our members. Dave is still hopeful that the State will meet with the committee and answer our questions and concerns but he's doubtful it will happen this year.

Bill advised the group that the boards are severely compromised which makes it difficult to maintain the water level we desire. If we have a dry year next year, it will be impossible to control the lake level unless the boards are replaced. This is something that Bill would like to cautiously move forward toward with the State. It was decided that we will wait for the official word from the State and yet continue to pursue our desire for a meeting with them. After continued discussion it was finally decided that notification to members would include the facts, as we know them. (Bids for the project were much higher than the State anticipated and there is a chance that the work would NOT be done this year.)

In preparation for Margaret Lawrence's arrival, Chris briefed the group on her proposal. The petition that she has been circulating was forwarded to all Directors. Our organization is already in dialog with DEC. Bill spoke to the fact that his name appeared on the petition (as well as CLCA) but this did not indicate support and people should not assume he did support the petition. Dave told the group that the Lawrence's had attended the last Environment and Ecology meeting and their thoughts were also presented. Dave believes that the petition stems from something Jim Hays wrote but changes, including some inaccuracies were in the end product. Bill did speak to the fact that the idea of an automated gate to control flooding is the best idea to date. Bill felt that we should definitely get behind this. Bill and Henry will continue to monitor the lake levels at both ends as well as post the results. This must be a joint effort by the CLCA and DEC. In regard to the issues over the 4th of July weekend, had DEC responded in a timely manner, the situation would have been avoided. The information that was collected by Bill and Henry was posted and submitted to DEC.

New Business-

Proposed 2018 Calendar

The following 2018 CLCA calendar was approved:

June

Sunday, June 24th- Directors' meeting: 8:30 AM at the Rohrs' camp on 194 Fulton Rd.

July

Saturday, July 7th - Flares/Fireworks - 9:30PM

Saturday July 14th - CLCA Annual meeting - 7PM at the Town Hall

Wednesday, July 18th - Ladies' Luncheon - 11:30AM at the Pine Lake Lodge

Saturday, July 21st - CLCA Annual Picnic - 1-4PM Cannon's Camp on Fulton Rd.

August

Saturday, August 4th – Ice Cream Extravaganza – 2-4PM at Alexander’s Camp on Green Lake

Saturday, August 25th – Directors’ meeting – 8:30AM at the Rohrs’ Camp at 194 Fulton Rd.

September

Saturday, September 1st – Flare lighting at 9PM

*To be determined:

Boat Parade

Kids/Youth Events

Ski Clinic

Garden Tours

It was also decided that we would continue with the Saturday/Sunday pattern for our meetings. Regarding a suggestion of Garden Tours, Chris is willing to pursue this idea and all felt it was an event worth trying. Dates for the Boat Parade, Kids/Youth activities, and the Ski Clinic will be posted as information becomes available.

Boat Wash Station Wages-

Mike had received some initial information, which turned out to be incorrect. While interviewing stewards for the 2017 season, the Town bookkeeper had told Mike that the wages would be increased from \$10.00p/h to \$10.40p/h. Mike was unaware that the Town had passed a resolution that all “new” employees would start at \$10.00p/h. Three of the stewards for the season were rehires thus making \$10.40p/h. Bart Walter, a new hire at the boat wash station would only be eligible for \$10.00p/h. There is a 40 cent discrepancy between Bart and the other three stewards even though the hours and responsibilities are the same. Mike asked that the Directors consider taking \$300.00 (making up the difference in wages) out of the Invasive Species budget to make up the discrepancy in wages for Bart. It was agreed that a thank you for his dedication and a check for \$300.00 would be given to Bart at the end of the season. Everyone approved.

Possible Donations-

There was a proposal for a donation to the Adirondack Center Loon Conservation from Rosemary Lee. She has requested a \$50-\$75 donation and she documented the help and information this organization has given us. A motion for a \$75.00 was made and seconded. This donation was approved.

There was a second proposed donation to the Caroga Lake Music Festival, which represents a positive force to not only our community but also the region. It was suggested and approved to give \$100.00 to the CLMF. This donation is for one year only.

It was suggested that we increase our annual donations to the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department and the Caroga Historical Museum. It was decided that since we had raised our donations to \$100.00 this year we would discuss another increase in the spring of 2018. Bill suggested that on the Membership form it might

be possible to list several new items that members might allocate funds to. No action was taken on this suggestion.

Chris indicated that there is a local election coming up and though it does not concern our Organization directly Chris asked Tony to pass along any information he might have. Tony informed the group that Kent Kirch, Tor S, Frank Malagisi, James Long and Jack Glenn will be running for the three councilmen seats and that James Selmsler was running unopposed for the Supervisor's seat.

Chris asked everyone present to review a circulated sheet of Officers and CLCA Directors to make sure that the email addresses listed were correct.

The final item under New Business was a suggestion by Rick Fink to do a "fire drill" for those who have properties that are boat accessible only. The purpose is to establish correct protocol if there is a fire or an emergency. Lois felt this was an excellent idea and perhaps it should be placed on a schedule. Lois reported that Rick is willing to take charge of this event. Bill let everyone know that there is poison ivy growing around the pump on Dolgeville Point. It would be a good idea to somehow eradicate this problem.

Committee Reports-

Lake Management-Vice President Mary Jablonski

Environment/Ecology-Dave Graves

Island-We agreed this was a one- year attempt. The forester was willing to take another trip out to the Island but would like to coordinate with the Eagle Scout project. Nothing has been organized yet. Leaving the dock in for the fireworks and then removing it for the rest of the summer. It was decided that the work done on the Island was a one-year project, which has been completed and we will continue to monitor for further involvement. We should try to get the forester out there before the end of this year for his opinion. Lois asked if there were plans to put flares on the Island in September and it was decided that the flares would be lit off the Island not on it.

Dave indicated that we had received the results of the zoo plankton test and they were extremely positive. Dave also spoke about the rapid migration of HWA, which has been found as far north as Lake George. The larva shows up on the underside of the hemlock branches. We need to keep a watchful eye out for this. Regarding terrestrial invasive species, black swallow wart was spotted along Kasson Drive. This has been eradicated.

Fire Safety-Bill Fielding

After the reported incident on Dolgeville Point, Bill stressed the importance of everyone posting the 911 numbers so that the Fire Department can pinpoint the location of the fire/emergency.

Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes

Mary read Merryn's report into the minutes: "CSLAP sampling has been routine. There is nothing to report. Results from this round will not be until late spring 2018. With regard to e-coli sampling, five volunteers have emerged to help me collect the bacteria samples this season. Thank you to Linda Smith, Joshua Peck, Dick Sullivan, Margaret Lawrence, and Phillip Leverett. If you see them by your shore in the next few weeks tell them thank you for volunteering. The results from this testing will be available within the next few weeks."

Invasive Species-Mike Durkee

As of the first week in August the folks at the boat launch have inspected over 1,100 boats. There was talk that the stewards would be given a handheld radio that would be linked to DEC dispatch, but apparently DEC office in Northville does not make these decisions. It would be helpful to have communication at the launch and Mike will continue to pursue this possibility. Tony offered to talk with Steve Putman since the highway department does have communication devices.

At the boat wash station we continue to be a bit frustrated by the number of boat trailers that go by without stopping. Mike would like to do more publicity but dealing with DOT is often complicated. Mike is also looking into offering a small token to hand out after participating in this free service.

Mike reported that all samples of weeds that have been either found at the boat launch or boat wash site have been native species. Mike did receive a call from a South Shore resident of what could be milfoil. Marcus will go and get a sample this week. Mike also announced that there would be a Fulton County AIS forum next Saturday at the Town Hall. This event is open to the public.

Chris thanked Mike and Marcus for their continued management in our invasive program.

Lake Safety-Tony Sturchio

Tony indicated that he is looking for some direction as to how to deal with unsafe boating practices. All we can do is get the hull number of the boat or jet ski and call the Sheriff's Department. It was noted that more patrols have been seen on Pt. Breeze and West Lake roads as well as down at Stewart's Landing. Tickets have been handed out.

It was also noted that the Sheriff's Department has some new sonar equipment that they were testing out last weekend.

Fishing-Doug Smith

There is money available for the fall stocking.

Property Assessment-Linda Clark

Tony reported that the Town has a new assessor (Victoria Hayner). She is very experienced and has brought four other towns up to 100% evaluation and is working toward the same goal for us. Tony indicated that the Town has hired a new budget director and hopefully the Town finances will be straightened out.

Stewardships-

Adopt a Shoreline- State lands surrounding our Lakes look good. The group is hoping that the early let down of the Lake level will allow pick up along state lands that border our Lakes. We are not concerned with personal property unless owners need assistance in removing something.

Adopt a Highway-no report was available

Fire Tower-the trail and area surrounding the tower is very clean. Dave reported that the inside of the tower was recently painted.

The floor was then turned over to Margaret Lawrence to discuss her petition concerning shore erosion and water level. Chris pointed out that the CLCA does have an ongoing dialog with DEC regarding these concerns and hopes that all our concerns will have a positive outcome. Margaret explained that the purpose of her petition was to get feedback from residents expressing their concerns regarding the Lake's water level. The target audience of the petition was DEC but the intent all along was to give her group's results to the CLCA in hopes to bolster efforts with DEC. The petition gives some ecological background on why the group cares about the shoreline and stated that Bob Lawrence had done a FOIL request and the State got back to him saying they would provide information but not until September 29th.

Per Margaret Lawrence the main thrust of the petition was two asks: the first was to answer the group's questions and concerns, the second with regard to the range of six to eight inches, the agreed upon range for summer level, that instead of that being in the middle of the range it would be at the top of the range. Her group was able to talk with 60 camp residents and they had an eighty percent signing rate. The group collected 47 signatures representing 40 camps. There were those who offered support but felt they could not sign the petition because of their role in the CLCA. These figures represent the quantitative results. The qualitative results were concerns about the loons, the habitat, the erosion of the shoreline, and the Island. These were major concerns of those the group talked with. Some suggested a stronger statement on decreasing the water level. No one expressed concern on lower water level including those canvassed on the inlet along Kasson Drive. This represents Margaret's results to date.

Lois expressed concern with no documentation on specific wording, ie: frequent flooding, several times, erosion of marshlands. Lois felt that clarification on the wording would be helpful. Dick asked if the objective was to change the milestone (the measurement we work off of) as we all have these concerns. Changing the milestone, either up or down, will affect individual property owners. Chris thanked Margaret and expressed our willingness to work with her and share information so that the outcome of all of this will satisfy the whole. Chris told Margaret that the Board had just approved funds for signage to be put up when high water occurs. John asked about the concern of sensors that were mentioned in the petition. Margaret's concern was that if only one sensor is placed at the Dam would it react to the higher level here on the Lake. If the Lake is high but the level is lower at the

Dam site how would that one sensor alleviate our problem? Chris pointed out that this was one of the questions that the CLCA had requested answers on in his letter to DEC. We are all looking for the same information and need to continue to share. Bill requested that if his name or the CLCA's name appear on the petition it should contain a disclaimer that Bill Fielding or the CLCA do not necessarily support this petition. Margaret agreed that this should not have appeared without permission though she had told those she approached that they did not represent the CLCA and that their intent was only to share information with the Association. Margaret agreed to look into amending the petition without having to re-canvas. Again Chris thanked Margaret for her time.

The meeting continued with Henry pointing out that there are approximately 60 homes along the channel. If the water level drops three inches from the summer level those residents will be unable to use their boats. Henry also pointed out that prior to this summer, for the past 5 summers there have been no real high water issues. Had DEC actually responded to the input from he and Bill, this situation would have been avoided. Chris pointed out that with the potential postponement of work on the Dam there maybe a lot of confusion. We need to have communication with members regarding what we are hearing.

Lake Organization-Vice President Allen Farber

Membership-Merryn Byrnes

Mary read the following report from Merryn into the record: "Currently 285 members. Last year we had 291 at the end of the season. Lois Miller has been gently reminding some residents who haven't renewed to renew. It's working so thank you Lois. Donations are currently at \$8,025.00 for the year. Please review the membership form and let me know if there are any requested changes or additions for next season. I am sorry but I have not been able to distribute the \$500.00 Reward cards yet. I am going to have that done in the next few weeks if that is ok and get my kids to help me. The actual breakdown of donations is as follows: Environment/Ecology-\$20.00, Fish Stocking-\$335.00, Fourth of July fund-\$2,475.00, General Fund-\$2,695.00, In Honor of Sue Chace-\$100.00, Invasive Species Prevention-\$2,220.00, Island Restoration-\$45.00 and Youth Activities-\$135.00."

Nominating Committee-John Saunders

John asked that any Directors whose term expires in 2018 to email him their intentions. A motion was made by Mary and seconded by Lois to appoint Eric Manning to fill the remaining term of John Broderick. Eric will be an acting Director and will serve with approval of the membership at the 2018 Annual meeting. The motion passed unanimously. John also reported that Merryn and Jim Hays had expressed interest in stepping down as Directors but both have been encouraged to stay on. John encouraged members to share their interest in becoming a Director. The committee is working to compile a roster so that when Directors step down he has access to names of those interested in serving. John believes it would also be helpful to have a roster with individuals who are interested in serving as an officer or a committee chair.

At this point of the meeting, Chris proposed that John Saunders be appointed President Elect. Dick Maider made the motion to accept and Mike Durkee seconded that motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Website, Newsletter, and Facebook-Allen Farber

Allen asked if there were any issues with the website or the weekly newsletter. Everyone was very appreciative on Allen's work on both. With the flooding issue that occurred over the Fourth, Allen and Chris had discussed ways to get information out to members more quickly. Allen suggested coming up with a Facebook group for the CLCA with the closed group being administered by Allen. We had discussed this several years ago and backed away from it. Feeling were this would provide the same information provided by the website and the newsletter but it would provide another vehicle. Allen also asked if the newsletter could be printed out and posted on the CLCA bulletin board located at the Store. Regarding the creation of a Facebook page for CLCA communication we agreed to "give it a shot".

ECHO-Mark Moritz

Mark's only request was that the Vice Presidents make sure that all committees under their charge had the lists of their committees up to date and sent to Mark as soon as possible. Mark also indicated that he would email deadline dates in the next several weeks. Mark was thanked by the group for the wonderful job he does on ECHO.

Welcoming Committee-Lois Miller

Lois reported that she has delivered all packets given to her by Merryn. Lois also asked and received permission to mail out the remaining 2015 Directories that had never been picked up by members.

Directory-Dick Arthur

There was no report given.

Fire Department-Alan Peck

Bill reported that everyone should make sure there is a fire extinguisher in your home and that the gauge reads in the green area. You are your first defense in case of a fire so prepare yourself. Make sure your 911#s are visible. Bill also indicated that the Fire Department will be actively raising money for their new facility. They have about \$400,000.00 to go before they can the loans to finish the process before starting construction.

Bylaws-Dick Maider

Dick reported that there was nothing new that would require adjustment to our current Bylaws.

Legal-Dick Maider

Dick reported that there was thankfully nothing new with Legal.

Adirondack Committee-Jim Hays

Jim Hays was unable to attend the meeting but Allen posted a report from Jim regarding his committee.

Winter Emergency-Tony Sturchio

Tony informed the group that Morey Rd. is still closed to snowmobiles. The Town continues to be in litigation.

Chris reported hearing very positive feedback on Allen's weekly newsletter. It is a wonderful vehicle for the CLCA and he thanked Allen for all his effort.

Dick and Diana Leaf have created a multi-purpose waiver, which has been approved by our insurance carrier. This waiver can be used for various activities within our Association. Chris thanked them for their efforts.

Lake Activities-Vice President Lois Miller

Boat Parade-Kristin Franz

Lois paraphrased a report submitted to her by Kristin. 12 boats participated in this year's parade with 75 people attending the after party. The winners of this year's trophy were Roy and Audrey Smith with their "in the 80's" theme. All participants received a ribbon. Kristin indicated that she had to order more ribbons and requested an increase in their budget. A complete report will appear in the 2018 ECHO.

Flares-Ed Fake

This was previously discussed in the minutes.

Fireworks-Mike Manning

Despite the rain and weather postponements the event did take place.

Sailing-Courtney Young

Courtney had put out a notice that if anyone was interested in lessons they should give him a call.

Ski Clinic-Diana Leaf

The clinic did not take place this season but Diana has high hopes that with the waivers in place the event will go on next summer. There were some concerns about having the waiver available online with the ability to sign remotely but Dick will discuss this with Diana before next season.

Ice Cream Extravaganza-Lois Miller

This year's event was hosted by the Alexander family. Lois had also asked and received permission to serve the leftover ice cream to the CLMF members. Lois shared a thank you from Kyle Price.

Ladies' Luncheon-Cat Graves

Lois read the following report submitted by Cat Graves: "The 2017 Ladies' Luncheon took place at the Pine Lake Lodge and the 41 attendees enjoyed the cuisine of Geri Blackton and her family, the new owners of the restaurant. She baked delicious varied quiches, prepared great tossed and fruit salads, had deviled eggs, and made an excellent chocolate mousse for dessert. We thank them for hosting this traditional yearly event. Once again, Kyle Price, Founder and Artistic Director of the Caroga Lake Music Festival accepted to play for us, which was absolutely great.

A few ladies from the committee picked flowers from Kate and Jon Freeman's beautiful garden to make bouquets for the centerpieces. These Adirondack flower baskets became gifts for one lucky lady at each table.

Donations were collected to support Hope Piehuta's family in their loss.

This year we required tickets (\$18) to be purchased in advance in order to give an accurate number of attendees.

Kathy Rohrs is now the First Lady, and I am certain she will do a great job organizing next year's Ladies' Luncheon. I want to thank the members of my committee, Deb Hoffman, Mary Jablonski, Kathy Manning, Karen Memmott, Sue Mitchell, Judy Moritz, Kathy Rohrs, Audrey Smith, and Judy Smith for their help in making this event a success."

Annual CLCA Picnic-Mike and Mary Cannon

The annual picnic was a great success. It was a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones. Over 125 folks attended.

Youth Activities-Ward V. Halverson

Lois Miller read the following report provided by Ward into the minutes: "Greetings! Youth activities this summer has been preliminary as we make more plans for the years ahead, but on Saturday we had our major annual event. This included a number of group activities starting with the new invention of Lawn Ball, continuing with whipped cream gummy bear face games, lunch on the porch, pirating into the sand for treasure, digging into a water pit for marbles with the toes, and racing cups along a string with squirt guns. About 23 children were involved and about nine parents; overall everything went smoothly. Photos are on the new CLCA Youth Activities Facebook site. The rest of the summer is focused on a few outdoor hiking events, then planning for next year."

Chris thanked everyone for their participation and asked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made to adjourn by Ed Fake and seconded by Paul Corr.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Hoffman-Secretary

