

Minutes of the June 24, 2018 CLCA Directors' Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 A.M. by President Chris Rohrs.

The following Directors were in attendance: Dick Arthur, Merryn Byrnes, Paul Corr, Mike Durkee, Henry Eifert, Ed Fake, Allen Farber, Bill Fielding, Rick Fink, Dave Graves, Jim Hays, Deb Hoffman, Mary Jablonski, Richard Maider, Eric Manning, Lois Miller, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, and Tony Sturchio.

Directors not in attendance: Mark Moritz and Shawna Thompson.

President's Remarks

Chris attended a recent ALA meeting. Good news is that Paul Smith's had received a 5- year funding for their work with the control of invasive plants. Another positive was how greatly respected our Association is by the ALA because of the work Jim, Mike, and others have done. The commitment to fight these invasive species is expanding across the Adirondacks.

Regarding Dam restoration it is official and a contract with Delaney Construction has been signed. Draw down will begin on September 10 with completion hopefully before Memorial Day weekend. A small group from our Association met with DEC in Northville on May 15th. Chris felt it was a pretty candid meeting and came away believing that communication with DEC is key to avoid further issues. We won't know if we have been successful until we have an event and see if all that was discussed comes to be. Chris has been in touch with the Region Five coordinator several times a week just to build a relationship. Bill doesn't seem as optimistic and unfortunately we must wait for an event to see what the response will be. Bill believes we need to continue to be proactive with our membership despite the State's involvement. The State would just as soon do nothing and let nature take its course. Bill believes the State will not do much for us and we sure can't count on Mother Nature so we must prepare ourselves. Mike Durkee thought it was an excellent idea to partner with the Town whenever dealing with the State.

Secretary's Report-Deb Hoffman

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes as email. A motion was made to accept the minutes by Rick Fink and seconded by Dick Maider.

Deb noted that she had written 12 thank you notes to people and organizations that had donated to the CLCA in John Broderick's memory. The total of these donations was \$765.00.

Treasurer's Report-Paul Corr

Our Association is in "good shape" thanks to the generosity of our membership. All necessary filings have been done and we are now exempt from State sales tax. Paul reported that he does have certificates at his place on Kasson Drive if anyone needs one. Turning attention to the sheets that were handed out, Paul drew attention to year-end balance sheet with total liabilities and equity of \$46,569.89. Paul then

went over the Profit and Loss by Class statement for January through December 2017. Paul pointed out that \$100.00 should appear for the Caroga Arts Collective. Paul then went through the current Balance Sheet as of July 14, 2018. The Fourth of July fund was a bit short as of today. Kane Mt. patch money was also discussed. It hasn't been used in years. Should we put it into unrestricted funds? Dave indicated that the mesh wire around the tower should be replaced. Bill has the address for the State if we do want to partner with them to get work done. The tower may need roof repair or replacement. It was suggested that we talk to Tim Mitchell, see what he thinks needs to be done, organize a group of volunteers and begin work on what has been deemed necessary. It was suggested that we wait another year to switch the Patch funds as there may be a need if we are going to do some repairs on the tower. Everyone agreed that there was no urgency to move the money. The State has put solar panels up near the tower and a box that needs to be connected. Dave will check with Tim, as it is believed that he knows more about the project. The Fourth of July fireworks fund is short by \$1,000.00. Allen will mention the shortage in this weeks' newsletter. There was no authorization of unrestricted funds by the Board for this event. Paul announced that we should be getting a tax refund from the state!!

Membership to date is 252 members. This is how we've spent and received funds to date. The 2018 budget was presented previously and should include the Caroga Arts Collective. Youth Activities is bumped up to \$600.00 and Adirondack Loon Conservation was increased from \$75.00 to \$100.00. Printing, copying, supplies, and mailing costs have really gone up. This should be increased from \$300.00 to \$600.00 or more. There was a question as to why the insurance premium was lowered. Paul didn't know but the policy had been renewed and the premium was lowered by \$300.00. Coverage remains the same.

Mike made a request to purchase new shirts (some sizes) for the volunteers. The new shirts will have the CLCA name on them but there will be no other changes. There was a motion of replenish the supply of large and X-large shirts at the cost of \$650.00 made by Lois Miller and seconded by Dave Graves. All agreed. There was then a motion made to accept the 2019 budget however it was thought that there was no mention of this procedure in our by-laws. Rick pointed out that this had been past practice. Dick indicated that this could be spelled out in the bylaws. Chris agreed so that the process for the budget would be clear. This will be talked about at the August meeting. Rick made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and the tentative 2019 budget. The motion was seconded by Mary and passed unanimously.

Continuing Business-

Proposed Information Sheet for Renters-The letter appears in this year's edition of the Echo. This was also discussed at the ALA meeting Chris attended as apparently is an issue elsewhere in the Park. John will work on a checklist for guests showing the dos and don'ts of how to treat the Lake. He'll send the completed list as a PDF file and Allen will put it on the website. It would be beneficial to notify renters of the designated boat launch and boat wash areas. Mike is willing to have smaller

signs made up and place in areas that are potential unauthorized launch sites. Merryn has a good list of people who do rent out their property and is willing to help put together a packet. John will take the lead on this working with Merryn.

Wake Signs-We have two signs at present. One is at the boat launch site at West Lake and the other at the Store just in case we need them. There are buoys that say “no wake” – something to think about in the future. It is also a good idea for individuals to make their own signs stating “no wake” and put them out when necessary.

2018 “Fire Drill”-This will be held on July 24th between 10-11 o’clock. The event is geared toward all whose property is “non-road” accessible. The meeting place will be determined and the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Dept. will facilitate.

New Business-

Flares-Our Association can no longer purchase the highway flares legally. LED flares will be replacing these and some will be available for purchase this year. The cost will run approximately \$17.00 with the battery. Ed Fake made a motion to purchase 20 for these new flares for use on the Island. The motion was seconded by Rick Fink and all approved.

CLCA Face Book Page-Allen reported that this is a closed group with only members being able to join. The purpose of this page is for immediate notification of upcoming events. The question was raised as to whether we want to add this to our arsenal of communication options. Mike Durkee made the motion and Lois Miller seconded the motion and all decided that for communication purposes this would be a wonderful idea.

Island Signage-Rick, Chris, and Mike will work on signage.

Committee Reports

Lake Management-Mary Jablonski Vice President

Environment and Ecology-Dave Graves-The group is focused on the hemlock woolley adelgid, dam repairs, and water levels. There are no longer plans of any kind to put an automated control in the design for the new dam. Our Association has developed a relationship with the State BUT the State is not at our beckon call. The target level for the Lake is 1543.1 (this should be the maximum) as we need a buffer. It was agreed that Canada Lake residents can live with four inches below the 1543.1 while the Stewart Landing folks want the level kept at 1543.1. The State feels that there are two groups asking for two different things. Our mission is to keep the lines of communication open with those in Northville. The water level has always been a concern and we must continue to communicate. We have no

assurances that the State will respond when we need their help. The State has indicated that they are content to “let the waters flow” (let nature take her course and do nothing). Bill will put a new gauge to check the water level near Henry’s house, which is located fairly close to the dam.

Water Level-Bill Fielding/Henry Eifert-this topic was previously discussed in the minutes.

Fire Safety-Bill Fielding-Bill urged everyone to have their fire numbers posted where they are visible, keep a garden hose ready, make sure that you have up to date fire extinguishers and feel free to test out the fire pumps. All have been tested. If you do have a fire or an emergency and you are non-road accessible, be sure to give that information to the 9-1-1 dispatcher. This information is essential. The planned “fire drill” will give more specific directions for those who are non-road accessible.

Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes-Merryn reported that our Association is involved with two programs. The first program is the CSLAP program, which we have been doing for years. This year ESF is expanding their program and will be sending students to assist. Test results for 2017 show that Canada Lake continues to be moderately productive. The Lake appears cloudier than usual, as the Ph levels have increased slightly over the past 20 years. There is a slight elevation of algae during the summer. This report indicated that there were no invasive species found. The complete report will be available on our website once we receive it. A summary is available now. The second program we are involved in is the ALA program, that testing is being done by member James Long and hopefully he will have a report for the upcoming Annual meeting. The 2015 results are on our website. Road salt is becoming a concern with high levels of salt appearing in people’s wells that have been tested. Paul Smith’s has done a road salt study. Bill suggested that people have their well tested now so that data can be compared in the future. Ecoli testing continues throughout the summer with 50 samples being collected. There have been no issues so far.

Invasive Species-Mike Durkee-Last year was active for the stewards. 1,971 boats were inspected at the launch site, 244 boats at the wash station and 111 of those boats were decontaminated. We are expanding coverage this year with a steward who will be located at the Caroga Lake Marina. One sample of milfoil was found coming out of Caroga Lake. Mike is unsure of the future for this program as we are at the end of a three-year grant. A group is working on a new grant but if notification of acceptance follows the previous time period, Mike won’t know if we will receive funds until April of 2019. Mike has some hope that he can persuade Eric and the Paul Smith’s folks to take responsibility for the boat wash station but he doubts that they would be willing to take on two full-time stewards working 72 hours per week. Mike announced that this will be his last year as coordinator for the Town but he would be happy to continue his work with our Association.

Mike also reported that DEC arrived at the West Lake launch site on Thursday of last week announcing they were shutting down the site in order to make repairs to the retaining wall. This may have been the result of a call he made to Northville regarding a woman who was injured earlier that week. DEC did a good job. The site was reopened the following day. Chris asked Mike to let him know if our Association could do anything to support getting grant money so that the program would continue.

Chris reported that the Town has eight divers and two tenders in the waters of Caroga 10 hours a day five days a week. Their job is harvesting milfoil. Prevention is cheaper! Chris thanked Mike and Marcus for their hard work and continued efforts.

Lake Safety-Tony Sturchio- Tony will be stepping down as a Director and committee chair and Eric Manning will be taking over this position. Tony did announce that in a 5-0 ruling in favor of the Town that Morey Rd. would be reopened to snowmobilers this coming season. This is a big win for all.

Fishing-Doug Smith. Stocking took place several weeks ago consisting of 360 rainbow trout. Another stocking will take place in the fall depending on donations. DEC stocked 1850 brown trout. Dave announced that his group is looking into doing a fish census of Canada Lake. Jim and Allen have contact with a group in Oneonta and we are looking into what we could do as a baseline study to see what are the populations of fish, etc., in our Lake. The group agreed this must be cost effective. Bill suggested that the group contact the Fish and Wildlife office in Northville. The State used to do these studies and they may have useful information.

Property Assessment-Linda Clark-There is currently nothing of concern. The Town has hired Victoria Hayner as a permanent assessor.

Stewardships

Adopt a Highway-Shawna Thompson. Shawna was unable to attend the meeting. There is no "real" committee. Residents volunteer for a specific pickup day. When Shawna sets a date for the first pickup, it will be put on the website.

Adopt a Shoreline-Deb Hoffman. Deb reported that Pete and Mike Hoffman did a pick up along the shore of Dolgeville Boathouse north in late May. Eric Manning has suggested that with the early drawdown this fall perhaps we can get together and do a good canvassing of the shorelines. The weather should be warmer and this could be very productive. Deb reminded everyone that her committee is concerned only with the State lands that surround our Lakes.

Campsites-Betsy Cannon. Mary had checked the campsites on Lily Lake, which look good. There were campers at the one site with the picnic table. No one had checked the site on West Lake. The consensus is that our partnership with the State only includes the two sites in Lily Lake and the one on West Lake. The Eagle Scout project has been completed.

Fire Tower-Tim Mitchell. Mary had been up to the tower recently. She reported that it looks as though DEC had done some water diversion along the trail. The tower itself looks good. There are solar panels and a box at the Tower. The cabin is in rough shape despite DEC signs suggesting people take care of it. There was no indication that DEC plans to take down the cabin.

Nick Stoner Island-Rick Fink. Rick reported that the Island is “open for business”.

Lake Organization-Allen Farber Vice President

Adirondack-Jim Hays. We are very concerned with the spread of the hemlock woolly adelgid which has been found as near as Scotia and on Prospect Mt. near Lake George. This invasive can totally destroy the hemlock population. Mark Whitmore from Cornell University is working on a predator that would destroy the adelgid. Mark will be addressing us at the Annual meeting and fill us in as to where his research stands, the progress he’s made, and answer further questions that our group might have. Much of our watershed is deciduous and we are looking at ways to possibly canvas this large area. No doubt there will be more discussion with the Environment and Ecology and the Invasive Species committees. All expressed some concern about the length of the speaking time given to Mark. We will need to pare down some parts of the meeting as it could become very long. Ideas will be discussed.

By-laws-Dick Maider-Chris and Dick will take a look at whether or not approval of the following year’s budget needs membership approval. Chris is inclined to call it a “tentative” budget. There may not be a need to put something into the by-laws but Dick and Chris will discuss it.

Legal-Dick Maider-There are no legal matters pending for our Association. On a personal matter, Dick has taken a job with the State Attorney General’s office. This office is very clear that Dick is not to use any State resources in his capacity as a Board member. If we have a legal issue that requires him to do research, Dick will be unable to use those resources. Our Association has two other attorneys within the membership and Dick will fill them in if any matters do require research using State resources.

Directory-Chris Rohrs-Dick Arthur is stepping down as committee chair. Chris will be taking over a chair but has asked Dick to remain involved. Work will begin next summer for the 2020 edition. Chris thanked Dick for all his work on the Directory as well as the work he’d done over the years for our Association.

Fire Department-Alan Peck. No report was given.

Lake Publication (Echo)-Mark Moritz-This year's edition was mailed out this past Friday. Postage was \$1.42 per copy. It was mentioned that some items that had been submitted did not make it into the publication. Perhaps Mark could respond letting those who submit committee lists, calendar dates, etc. aware that the information has been received.

Membership-Merryn Byrnes-Our Association currently has 266 members, which is consistent with this time last year. Merryn expects that by the end of the season there will be another 20-30 paid members, which will put us just shy of 300 members. An email reminder was sent out and there has already been a positive response. Merryn is looking for someone to get the Echo to those who had not paid their dues at the time of the initial mailing. Lois and Allen have agreed to help. Merryn also has two boxes of 2015 Directories some of which have been sitting around for two years. Lois had gotten permission to mail them but that would be of significant cost. Merryn has divided them up into areas and if people from that area of the Lake would attempt to deliver them we would have significant savings. Mike asked what our pool was for membership. Merryn will print out a sheet of all property owners and those that have just forgotten and need that little extra reminder from Lois.

Nominating Committee-John Saunders-John had put out an email to the following Directors whose terms end in 2018 including Dick Arthur, Allen Farber, Dave Graves, Deborah Hoffman, Mark Moritz, Chris Rohrs, and John Saunders. John did receive formal communication from Dick Arthur and Tony Sturchio that both are stepping down from their position as a Director. Tony's replacement will be a one-year appointment. John presented the following slate: Allen Farber, Dave Graves, Deborah Hoffman, Mark Moritz, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, and Tom Lyons who has been a long-time property owner and whose daughter was very involved with the 2015 Directory. Two potential candidates that John will reach out to are Kate Freeman (suggested by Mike Durkee) and Bob Baker who expressed interest after receiving the membership letter this past year. Though relatively new to the Lake he does have family ties here and is already involved as a volunteer steward for the Invasive Species committee. It was agreed that Tom Lyons would be placed on the slate for approval at the July Annual meeting replacing Dick Arthur and Kate Freeman, Bob Baker, and Nina McCormack would be considered for appointment to the one year remaining on Tony Sturchio's term. Rick made a motion to accept the proposed slate, it was seconded and all approved.

Website/Newsletter-Allen Farber-Allen will begin sending out the weekly newsletter this coming Thursday. If you have items that you would like to appear that week get your information to Allen by **5 P.M. on Wednesday**.

Welcoming Committee-Lois Miller-Lois reported that she works off a list of new members that Merryn provides. Lois visits every new member and gives them a packet containing the latest Directory, this year's Echo, Town information, hiking maps of the area, invasive species information and a CLCA reward sign.

Winter Committee-Tony has agreed to continue chairing this committee, as he is a year-round resident. The only new information was the ruling in favor of the Town regarding Morey Rd. being open to snowmobilers.

Lake Activities-Lois Miller Vice President

Boat Parade-Brian and Kristin Franz will not be hosting this year. Lois had contacted Ed Wood but hadn't heard from him. If anyone is interested in hosting this event there is a budget and a date set. Allen will put it in this week's newsletter that we are looking for a host for this year's parade.

Flares-Ed Fake- This topic was previously discussed.

Fireworks-Mike Manning-The date for the fireworks has been set for July 7th. We do not have an alternate date at this time. The company will let us know what dates they have available.

Sailing-Courtney Young-There doesn't seem to be a lot of interest. Courtney is willing to put out the buoys and is also willing to give family lessons for just \$20.00. Give him a call if interested.

Luncheon-Cathy Rohrs-The CLCA luncheon will be held on July 18th at the Pine Lake Lodge beginning at 11:30 A.M. Tickets must be purchased before the event. The cost will be announced at the Annual meeting.

Picnic-Mike and Mary Cannon-Lois has spoken with Mike and they are all set to go.

Youth Activities-Ward Halverson-These are underway and upcoming events will be posted on the website/newsletter.

Ski Clinic-Diana Leaf-Lois passed copies of the waiver that has been approved by our insurance carrier. The waiver also appears on our website and must be signed by all participants. The clinic will be held on July 14th between 10 and 1 o'clock. Hillary Davis is hosting the event on Dolgeville Point. Guests must come with a member of the Association. They would like people to sign up by the 12th so that they have an idea of the number of participants. A lifeguard has been hired at the cost of \$20.00p/h including travel time. Hillary will pay her and be reimbursed by Paul.

With no other business for the Board's consideration, Chris thanked Dick and Tony for their hard work and dedication to our Association throughout their years as Directors.

A motion to adjourn was made by Lois Miller and seconded by Ed Fake. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Deb Hoffman, Secretary