

## **CLCA Directors' Meeting – August 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by President Chris Rohrs at 8:35 A.M.

The following Directors were in attendance: Dick Arthur, Paul Corr, Mike Durkee, Henry Eifert, Ed Fake, Allen Farber, Bill Fielding, Rick Fink, Dave Graves, Jim Hays, Deb Hoffman, Mary Jablonski, Dick Maider, Eric Manning, Mark Moritz, and Chris Rohrs.

Directors not in attendance: Merryn Byrnes, Tom Lyons, Lois Miller, John Saunders, and Shawna Thompson.

### **President's Remarks-**

Chris pointed out that many committee reports were sent to respective Vice Presidents of various committees. All reports that were received were then sent to Allen Farber and posted on the CLCA website. These reports were not read into the meeting minutes. Allen asked that this procedure become common practice as it seems to streamline the length of our meetings. No one objected. Chris also informed the group that Lois had called saying she would not be attending today's meeting as she and Dixon were dealing with a medical issue. Chris asked that we keep them in our thoughts.

### **Secretary's Report-Deb Hoffman**

There were several corrections brought to Deb's attention. The minor changes were made and will appear in the approved minutes posted on our website. No other changes were needed and Deb asked for a motion to accept the corrected minutes. Mike provided the motion and Dave Graves seconded the motion.

### **Treasurer's Report-Paul Corr**

Paul went through the Balance sheet, which showed a balance over \$50,000.00 after all expenditures had been paid with a few more to come in and a few receipts as well. Paul then went through the Profit and Loss page pointing out membership dues of \$9,000.00, which represents 300 members. Paul pointed out that the classification under Invasive Species he had combined Lake Inspectors and Steward training into one account. Invasive Species committee will normally spend close to the \$1,500.00 budgeted plus the \$150.00 requested today. Fireworks fund has been at \$4,000.00 but working through the restricted funds we now have a negative balance of \$1,800.00. Paul pointed that next year the cost of the show has been

increased to \$5,000.00. One item Paul did add was the Fire Pumps. The Association does own these and they are serviced annually. The 2019 budget is very close to the 2018 budget with the only changes being the PO Box rental fee and the consolidation of Lake Stewardship training and Lake Inspection training.

Chris circled back to talk about two issues that appeared in the 2019 budget, the first being funding for the fireworks. Mike Manning was given the date of July 6<sup>th</sup> with the cost of \$5,000.00. (an increase of \$1,000.00 from the previous year) It was agreed that we would go ahead and confirm the July 6 date and really ramp up our efforts to increase donations. It was suggested a notice be placed in the membership mailing, the Echo, CLCA bulletin board and continue with the donation jar at the Canada Lake Store. Donations must increase if we are to continue with the fireworks display.

Paul suggested that the budget hasn't really changed and presented the budget for approval. The motion was made, seconded and approved by all.

## **New Business-**

**Proposed 2019 Calendar of Events-**It was agreed that the Fireworks display would be held on July 6<sup>th</sup>. The other issue was the CLCA picnic. The tentative calendar shows dates of July 20 and 27. There are conflicts on both those dates. The Museum's craft fair is scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> will be the CLMF Gala at Sherman's. Chris indicated that he had spoken with Doug Purcell, president of the Museum and Doug didn't feel that our picnic would have a negative impact on the craft fair. It was then decided that the picnic would be held on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Allen pointed out that perhaps next year the Association might look at spreading out some of the Association's events into August. Chris asked to add Flare Lighting to the July 6<sup>th</sup> date.

Chris added that the Directory committee would be activated next spring to begin work on the 2020 publication. Paul pointed out that we do have over \$2,700.00 in reserve for the Directory.

**AIS Funding-**Mike explained that the five- year grant we have been working under is up this year. At present no new grants have been released. This is not unusual as the last grant announcement gave the Town very little time to put together their proposal. Mike hopes to get the State to pull the steward at the campsite and relocate him/her to the boat wash station. Mike noted that the campsite launch receives little use while the boat wash station is our first line of defense in helping to

prevent the spread of invasive species not only in our Lake, but boats being transported north along Rt. 10 and Rt. 8. Paul Smith's has received a five-year grant that would support this position, but would require a change. Mike doesn't see much hope that the Town will kick in monies that would cover the amount of time the station has been open. The Town has increased funding for the milfoil management on the Caroga Lakes and they may be at their financial limit. Some decisions will have to be made. The Caroga Lake Marina has been productive and Mike hopes that site will remain. The current situation is murky. There are some options for the West Lake site. We will have to wait and see. Mike offered to put together a letter from our Association to DEC expressing our concern regarding loss of staffing the boat launch and the wash station. Mike indicated that he is meeting with some of the Town officials on Monday and will report back if he feels a letter from us would benefit our cause.

**Fire Pumps**-Chris reported that the "fire drill" organized by Rick was a big success. Approximately 33 people attended. Rick had the fire pumps and hoses there and most everyone used the equipment. It was very hands on. Protocol was discussed with Howard Dutcher (member of the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department) for those whose property is water accessible only. Chris suggested we follow up with an article and pictures in the Echo. Mark reminded folks that when writing an article for publication to remember to write it as current thus cutting down on his time having to edit articles.

Rick continued by saying that we learned a lot the day of the "drill". Many of the hoses (intake and output) are very old and in need of replacement. Rick proposed that we set aside \$2,000.00 for two new pumps and some new hoses. Rick also suggested that we take the two pumps in the best condition and make two new stations thus giving us a total of five stations. The pump housed at the Memmott camp has just been replaced so we would only purchase one more pump this year. Bill felt that the \$2,000.00 might be a bit low when you consider the cost of building the sheds to house the pumps. Rick agreed to donate the labor for the two sheds thus cutting the cost considerably. There was a motion to purchase new hoses and the new pump made by Ed. The motion was seconded and all agreed to the purchase. Paul pointed out that the 2019 budget would reflect an additional \$2,000.00. Finally, Rick pointed out that we need to get the pump locations on a map that would appear in the Echo. It was pointed out that those locations are indeed on the map that appears in the Echo. Bill indicated that after many years of chairing the Fire Safety committee, he would like to step down as chair if Rick is willing to take up that position. Rick agreed if Bill would be willing to house the pumps and help check them out each spring. Bill pointed out that the first line of defense if a fire is discovered is the person who sees the fire. All property owners should have a garden hose and fire extinguisher available. In the four or five minutes that it would take to go through the 911 process you could probably put the fire out. We need to continue to remind everyone the importance of having a hose and extinguisher close at hand.

**Fishing**-Dave reported that Doug Smith advised him that on June 11, 286 rainbow trout were placed in Green Lake. Doug has advised Dave Sponenberg that \$500.00 is available for fall stocking.

**Island**-Dave Graves reported that he, Chris, and two gentlemen from DEC as well as Mike Mulligan, also from DEC took a trip out to the Island to see if work done by volunteers several years ago had been of benefit. Dave thought the trees looked a little better. Mike who is a forester suggested that if the desire was there, leaves and hemlock chips could be spread on the surface. The thought being to fertilize and stabilize the ground. Mike also suggested a sign (language determined by the State) placed at the end of the dock.

The group also talked about the fire tower and the mesh that needed repair. John Desantis has instructed his crew to replace/repair it in the near future. Dave also mentioned that the trail off of Schoolhouse Rd. has been closed by the State. The State said it would look into getting an easement. Dave was very pleased with the way the meeting went. The State had indicated that Kane Mt. was the second or third most traveled climb in John Desantis' region.

Mike asked if he could purchase the appreciation cards that he has done in the past for those working as stewards and inspectors. He is requesting funding for 40 cards at \$4.00 per card. Mike felt that \$150.00 would cover the cost and he would like to take it out of his restricted funds. There was no need for a motion as the funds are available.

## **Dam Project**

Chris reported that the project is ahead of schedule, which is important because hopefully it will conclude on schedule and we won't be left high and dry for Memorial Day. The big issue is that the DEC advises it will soon make a decision on the height of the flashboards. Their decision can be either to stay as is with 9 -inch boards or perhaps to lower boards. DEC is looking for input from CLCA and SLA if we have any to offer. SLA has weighed in with a recommendation to leave the boards as they have been. The issue for us is whether we have any recommendation. Unfortunately there are different points of view on this topic within our organization's members. Chris indicated that he had heard from Linda Clark (Legal Committee) that it was her belief that no change from long-established water level status quo should be recommended with a structured process involving the full membership. The other two committees involved are the Water Level committee and the Environment and Ecology committee.

Dave pointed out that the contract for dam repairs that has been awarded by the State does not include an automated gate to control water level. The E&E committee sees that as a major disappointment and Dave talked about what can be done instead. First there must be active communication with the DEC on dealing with major weather events. To that end E&E decided to provide Chris with additional info sensitizing DEC to the challenge we face: first, that we have had three 100-year floods in the past 12 years; that Irving Pond dam has been taken out, which served as a buffer; and that the Pine Lake dam has been replaced with basically a flow-thru system. The committee drafted a position statement for discussion at the Directors' meeting: (9 members supporting, 3 members abstaining pending additional information on the dam project, and one member unreachable). The position statement recommended that based on the above mentioned changes the DEC should consider reducing the height of the flash boards on the dam as part of their dam refurbishment project in order to protect sensitive environment and offer a buffer during high water levels. Chris said that DEC is becoming frustrated by lack of consistent input CLCA and various residents who contact them. The State wants to know by August 31<sup>st</sup> if we have a recommendation.

Chris asked Bill to speak as co-chair of the Water Level committee. Bill expressed strong feelings on being left out of the E&E committee discussions on water level. He felt that if he had been included we would not be facing the deadline we are. Jim Hays interjected that the water level topic has been discussed on many occasions and that the E&E committee paper represents a recommendation within CLCA. Jim also suggested that the Water Level committee was free to submit their opinion.

Bill continued to press the issue that if other groups within the Association are going to discuss water level recommendations then he should be included. Chris expressed Bill's importance to the committee and to the Board and made the point that he had had more discussions about water level with Bill this summer than he had had with anyone else. Bill said he appreciated Chris's remarks but still wanted assurance that any discussions regarding water level should include himself or a member of his committee. Dave advised that he had not sent the E&E committee's recommendation to DEC as SLA had done but only to Chris.

Chris asked others to voice their opinions as the issue affects the entire membership. There was discussion of the history of the issue and it was asked whether the DEC would afford us more time for input. Rick pointed out that water level has been a hot topic since at least the 70's and we should do our due diligence and poll the membership before responding. Otherwise the level should stay at 1543.1.

Jim Hays said that the water level as it stands is eroding shoreline and threatening the marshes, which are extremely important to the ecology of the lakes. He felt that this maybe the only opportunity we have to do something about it for a while. There was some back and forth on semantics between "recommendations" and "decisions" leaving Bill to feel left out of the E&E discussion.

A key issue is that the State prefers not to intervene at the dam except in rare weather emergencies. They would rather “let the river flow” with little intervention by them. DEC agrees to respond to serious conditions but they feel the Association sometimes over reacts. This summer at Bill’s recommendation and Chris’s agreement CLCA requested that the dam be opened in anticipation of heavy rains. DEC reluctantly complied, the rainfall ended up much less than expected and low water prevailed for several weeks. The State believes we should have a tolerance of at least six inches above or below the 1543.1 norm.

Chris asked for input from all Board members. Mike agreed that an extension of time might allow us to poll the members. He also voiced his opinion that if one committee takes up a topic that directly affects the work of another committee a sincere effort should be made to work together on the issue. Ed reminded the group that we must consider the Steward’s Landing people and he pointed out that when he was president water level was also an issue. Folks went round and round on the issue back then but felt an agreement had been made to maintain at 1543.1. Eric agreed that changing from the baseline that has been set is probably insensitive without wide discussions taking place. He also asked if it would be possible to alter the boards in the future. Bill answered that anything is possible but the time to address this is when the State is refurbishing the dam.

There was discussion about how much buffer lower boards might afford during a major flooding situation. With the size of our watershed and the long, narrow constricted channel leading to Steward’s Landing the level of the lakes rise well before that at the dam. In those times the critical action is to get the dam gates open. Opinions were expressed that we needed to get back to DEC with a recommendation before their deadline. Dick believes our group will not be able to come to a consensus without polling our members using a process that adequately addresses the issue.

There was general agreement that we would need to involve and poll the membership before recommending changes to long-standing water level status quo. It’s an issue that has been going on since the conception of our Association and it may never be fully settled. There are legitimate opinions on all sides.

Bill reiterated that in instances involving more than one committee they should work together not independently. He felt that he could not continue as a Director if he did not have that commitment. Chris asked Dave if he was okay with that collaboration and Dave responded he didn’t see it as an issue. He also said if Bill wanted to share something with Chris without involving him it would not bother him. Dick felt that from a parliamentary standpoint nothing wrong was done but from a personal perspective the situation could have been handled differently. At this point in the discussion Bill confirmed that he would resign as a Director. Members asked him to reconsider but he felt he could not. (Bill remains co-chair of the Water Level committee.)

Dick Arthur asked if the Board might vote on the issue. Chris reiterated the need to involve membership and that there are Board members missing today. Dick Marder said that we could make a motion on behalf of the Board whether we want to keep the status quo but that it would be better that any recommended change from 1543.1 should represent the whole membership. A sub-group volunteered to work on a polling proposal but after further consultation with the Legal committee immediately after the meeting Chris agreed that recommending a water level change would require a process ensuring full membership awareness and participation. He so informed the membership via email and posting.

The meeting adjourned at 11 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Hoffman

Secretary CLCA