

CLCA Annual Meeting – Saturday, July 14, 2018

The 2018 Annual CLCA meeting was called to order by President Chris Rohrs at 7:05 P.M. Chris introduced the officers and welcomed the general membership. Before the actual start of the business portion of the meeting Chris pointed out the fire exits, the refreshment table, Merryn Byrnes was set up with unclaimed Directories and Echoes, and table where tickets for the Ladies Luncheon could be purchased after the meeting. A quorum was established and the meeting proceeded.

Chris announced a slight change in format for the evening in that most committee reports have been posted on our website. We are trying this format out this year in hopes to shorten the meeting time as well as giving everyone the opportunity to read at leisure the actual reports. Several of the larger committees will continue to present orally this evening.

President's Remarks - Chris Rohrs

The summer has already been a busy one. Weather has been incredible, very successful ski clinic today and an incredible fireworks display last weekend. The key subject areas that we will discuss tonight are invasives, both aquatic and terrestrial, water quality, recap of the dam repair project, Lois will report on a range of activities that are planned for the remaining weeks, kudos to Allen Farber for the wonderful weekly newsletters and new this year Allen has launched a Facebook page as another means of communication among members. We are also working hard to keep the bulletin board at the Store current. Finally we will discuss issues in the area of safety.

Chris remembered John Broderick, a long time member and Director of our Association, who passed away last fall. John was a member of the Invasive Species committee, chairman of the Adopt the Highway committee, and an active member of the Fire Tower committee. Eric Manning was appointed by the Board to fill John's remaining time on the Board and will be part of the slate presented to the general membership tonight.

Chris thanked Mike Manning for arranging this year's fireworks display and gave hats off to Allen for the great job he's doing on communicating information to everyone.

Secretary's Report – Deb Hoffman

Deb hoped that members had received the minutes that were emailed and asked if there were any additions or corrections. There were none and Deb asked and received a motion to accept the minutes as emailed by Mary Jablonski and a second by Allen Farber. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report – Paul Corr

Financial reports were distributed. Paul thanked everyone for their continued support to our Organization. The first sheet that Paul went over was the Balance Sheet ending in December 2017 where we had cash total assets of \$46,570.00 with no liabilities. We filed with the IRS and New York State. Page two of the financials represented cash basis January – December 2017 lists the receipts. Paul pointed out that we do have donations in addition to our membership dues totally unrestricted funds of \$4,210.00 and restricted funds of \$5,925.00. Paul went over the two water purity programs that we support as well as the various organizations we support. On page three we had a net excess of receipts over expenditures of about \$3,291.00. The balance sheet as of today shows total assets with no liabilities of \$52,468.00. Paul mentioned that we could use more support with our 4th of July fund. Paul then moved to pages five and six showing the same list of expenditures. Current as of today, we are plus receipts over expenditures of \$5,897.00. The next page was the budget for 2018. Paul pointed out several adjustments and finally went over the tentative budget for 2019, which Paul asked for approval from the membership. With no questions from the membership Paul accepted a motion to accept the 2019 budget from Lois Miller and seconded by Mike Durkee. The budget was approved unanimously.

Continuing Business

Invasive Species – Mike Durkee and Marcus Harazin

Mike expressed his appreciation to both the stewards and inspectors. We have built on the foundation set by Jim Hays and the program has been well accepted by the broader community not just within our Lake Association, but also the Town of Caroga and within the region. Some highlights from last year were over 2,000 inspections at the West Lake launch and 260 at the boat wash station. Several examples of Eurasian milfoil were found, removed and went no further. All of this was accomplished with four stewards and 16 volunteers. By comparison 2009 with only two stewards we did 600 boats at the West Lake launch. This year to date we have inspected 727 boats at the West Lake launch and the boat wash station. We have a new steward in place at the Caroga Lake Marina, which Mike believes is an excellent addition to the program. We now have a total of six stewards working at three locations. The good news is that the boating community is doing better than ever in keeping their boats clean. Although there were no new infestations found in the Paul Smith's survey last year the danger is always there. Marcus leads the inspector program and Mike thanked those volunteers who "throw those rakes" as that's how we are sure there are no invasives cropping up in our Lakes. Last year a zooplankton survey was conducted by the Darrin Freshwater Institute which found we have a healthy mix of fauna in the water column and no AIS. We also participate in an Adirondack wide committee that advises the APIP and DEC programs. As a result of our involvement there will be a program through the Paul Smiths' grant set

up in the Caroga's, with no cost to the Town. The group has also had several good meetings with DEC. Chris and others have gone up and met with the Region Five director to see how best to improve the programs we have and how to coordinate so that we are not getting in each others way.

The group has also tried to work with neighboring lakes to help with training, providing handouts, and putting out signage.

Marcus thanked his volunteers. He explained that he and Mike have participated in the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant program and this year the training was held at the Town Hall here in Caroga Lake. There was a great exchange of ideas. During the session the folks from APIP shared that there is a waiver for volunteers. In the event of an accident they offer secondary insurance coverage. Marcus brought forms as well as pamphlets showing the various invasives we might discover. Marcus encouraged volunteers to sign the waiver form as it covers both stewards and inspectors. Marcus finally announced an ALA meeting, which will be held on August 8th in Saranac Lake. The only two requests for identification that Marcus received this year was one unidentified mass which turned out to be caydice fly egg mass and the second being zebra mussels that were found in the cockpit of a kayak at the boat launch. The zebra mussels did not come out of Canada Lake. They were discovered before the kayak launched. They most likely came out of the Mohawk River. One final note made was that Marcus and Mike have worked with Joanne Young filling out forms that would assure the Town receives their reimbursement.

Mike informed the members that DEC had done some work on the old retaining wall at the boat launch and would also like to lay a short ramp next to the ramp that goes into the water allowing people the space to load and unload rather than having to clamor up and down the retaining wall. In addition the State will be placing boulders behind the shed to help with erosion. The shed has been moved to the other side of the ramp. This work will be done over the next several weeks.

Chris thanked Mike and Marcus for their continued hard work. Chris mentioned that he had attended the Adirondack Lake Association President's Council in June and came away with two things: one that the work to combat the spread of aquatic invasives is growing across the Adirondacks significantly in terms of funding and coordinating efforts among partners and secondly Chris was heartened by the respect that the CLCA is held in by that group. Our organization has a real reputation of being a leader in invasive species work. Congratulation to all!!

The focus then shifted to the terrestrial invasives of which there are many that we need to be vigilant of as well. A particular one that is a growing threat to the hemlock. Jim Hays introduced Mark Whitmore who is an expert on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. We know the threat exists. There are signs near Lake George. It slows progression due to our cold winters but this will not stop the spread of this disease. Mark shared his slides of what this bug looks like this time of year. The population we have here on the east coast comes from southern Japan. It has a very complex life cycle. This bug rests during the summer months when predators are

out. It begins to grow in October getting fatter and fatter until early March. It lays its eggs they hatch immediately. It is waxy and woolly in appearance. It spreads via the wind and birds. Mark has found it next to water. Early detection is critical. In the spring when the hemlocks get their new bright green shoots there may be possible infestation. This insect continues to go to the healthy tissue eventually killing the entire tree. New York has more hemlocks than any other state in the nation so there is major concern as to how to control the spread of this disease. Mark shared a map showing its existence in the Lake George area as well as in Scotia roughly 25 miles from Canada Lake. The most important thing that we can do is to survey for this insect, if found try and manage it.

Mark has found that when we have warm winters this disease spreads rapidly. We have had several warm winters and Mark is astonished by how rapidly this is spreading. Detection is easy; it's white, woolly, and on the twigs close to the ground. When you're looking, look near water especially in early June. Mark is currently working hard on the development of the *leucopis argenticollis*, a beetle. This is an expensive venture but we don't have many options at this time. Mark is currently working on the development of a type of fly but again there is concern of whether or not it will survive our severe winters. Trees can be kept alive with insecticides. One treatment can last seven years. Early detection is so important because if we find it we can "nuke" it and keep the disease from spreading. For additional and more in depth information go to the website. There was a brief Q and A period. Mark indicated that APIP is a great place to "throw money" into. Mark added that woodpeckers are a great indicator that there is some infestation within a tree. Call DEC! If you do choose to use insecticides have an arborist do the application. Preventative treatment is not recommended. Chris thanked Mark for making the trip to share his knowledge with our Association.

Chris then gave a report on the dam repair. We have put out a lot of communication regarding this project but to recap our group met with DEC in Northville on May 15th. At this meeting DEC gave a report on the plan. The contract has been awarded and the drawdown date is September 10th. The Lake level will go down to winter level very quickly so that work can begin on the concrete repairs to the dam. This is a repair only. There will be NO remote or onsite control mechanism. It will remain a manually controlled dam. Most of the meeting was spent talking about communication and emergency responsiveness. We have definitely strengthened our connection with DEC. However, two big caveats - we have not been tested in an emergency and secondly DEC does not want to intervene at the dam. It is in our best interest to work very hard to motivate DEC to respond when we feel we need them to. Chris also informed the membership that Town Supervisor Jim Selmsler and Town Board member James Long also attended this meeting, which was most impactful. This let the State know that this is more than just our Association issue, it affects the Town of Caroga as well. We have built a great working relationship with the Town through the Invasive Species program and adding this issue merely strengthens that relationship. This is a challenging situation. We seem to be experiencing more weather related problems, the channel itself is very difficult to

manage, and finally we do not control the dam. As an Association we need to continue to communicate with DEC and as individuals we each need to have a plan to secure our own properties. We must continue to be proactive.

New Business

Director Rick Fink has organized a “fire drill” for those residents who do not have car access to their properties. On July 21st at 9 A.M. Those interested will meet at the Point Breeze boathouse. Members of our local fire department will give a 15 – 20 minute instruction on what will happen on their end of an emergency when they receive a call from a resident. After the discussion there will be instruction on how to use the fire pumps.

Committee Reports

Lake Management-Mary Jablonski-Vice President

Environment and Ecology – Dave Graves

This group has focused on two areas this year; the first being HWA and the second being the dam situation. Dave’s committee is working to sensitize the DEC and help Chris get the State’s attention. The group has put together a draft or position paper outlining the issues and once he has heard from all members of his team, the draft will be given to Chris.

Water Purity – Merryn Byrnes

The Association has two sponsored programs – CSLAP and ALAP. There is a full report of last year’s CSLAP report on our website. This year CSLAP is expanding their perimeters to include pharmaceuticals, body products, and harmful algae. These may hold a potential danger to lakes. Our Lake is being tested NOT because we have these chemicals but because it is a “clean” lake. John Byrnes has been trained by the Freshwater Institute to do this testing. In regard to the ALAP coordinator James Long reported that a complete report for Canada Lake as well as many lakes in the Adirondack Park can be found on the new website: townofcaroga.com. Canada Lake is in good shape. James mentioned that the group is looking at road salt and how it gets into our lakes. This seems to have affected East Caroga the most. With regard to Canada Lake John Byrnes has done some research and has equipment to test well water. He is trying to get a background survey done. John has tested 15 wells thus far. The only issues so far are those wells located along Old State Rd. So far nothing serious but if you would like your well water tested, drop off a plastic bottle sample labeled with your name, whether you have a drilled or dug well, depth of your well, and your location. John will be happy to test and let you know the results. James Long pointed out that this salt

content could affect people who need to limit their salt intake and perhaps affects fish reproduction. So this certainly has a broad ecological effect.

Lake Organization-Allen Farber-Vice President

Nominating Committee – John Saunders

The Directors whose term end in 2018 are: Dick Arthur, Allen Farber, Dave Graves, Deb Hoffman, Mark Moritz, Chris Rohrs, and John Saunders. Of those Directors Dick Arthur has expressed his desire to step down. To fill Dick's position the committee has nominated Tom Lyons. Another Director (Eric Manning) was appointed last year by the President and will now be confirmed for a three-year term. Tony Sturchio also stated that he wishes to step down but not until August so there will be another temporary appointment and next July there will be a vote with that person accepting a three-year term. John extended appreciation to Dick for his many years of service to the Association.

The nominating committee, with the approval of its Board of Directors submitted the following slate of Directors for a three-year term beginning in 2018 and ending in 2021: Allen Farber, David Graves, Deborah Hoffman, Chris Rohrs, John Saunders, Tom Lyons, and Eric Manning. Also needing a vote of approval is the slate of officers, which include: Chris Rohrs-President, John Saunders-President Elect, Deborah Hoffman-Secretary, and Paul Corr-Treasurer. These officers will serve a one-year term expiring in August of 2019. A motion to accept was made by Mike Durkee, seconded and unanimously approved.

Lake Activities-Lois Miller-Vice President

Lois reported that the Ice Cream Extravaganza is being held this year at the Alexander Camp on Green Lake, August 4th beginning at 2:00P.M. Special thanks to Stewart's for providing us with the ice cream and fixings again this year. The Lake Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 18 at the Pine Lake Lodge. Tickets are presale only and are available for purchase tonight. Finally the CLCA picnic will be held at Mike and Mary Cannon's beginning at 1:00P.M. Lois noted that all other Lake Activities have been posted on our website.

Chris did give attention to the Ski/Wakeboard Clinic, which was held earlier today. Diana Leaf who organized the event reported there were 20 participants ranging in age from 5 to 50 years old. Diana was pleased with the turnout especially since all participants under 18 had to submit a signed waiver. Diana and Dick Maider worked hard to put together a document that would satisfy our insurance company.

Bret Fielding asked for everyone's cooperation when it comes time to pull boats at the end of the season. As we have heard the water will be lowered beginning September 10. Canada Lake Marine pulls, services, and/or stores between 12 and 27 boats of those in attendance this evening. We can't wait until the last minute so please try and work with us.

Merryn announced the winners of the door prizes: the Adirondack water bottle went to Don and Sue Martin, Tim and Sue Mitchell were the recipients of an Adirondack plaque, a container of local maple syrup went to John and Carol Lernihan and the grand prize went to Liz Timony.

Chris thanked everyone for attending. A motion to adjourn was made by James Long there was a second and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deb Hoffman-Secretary