

CLCA Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, June 20, 2020

By Zoom – 8:30 am

Attendance: Allen Farber, Lois Miller, Bob Baker, Lorrie Mott, Ed Fake, Mike Durkee, Deb Hoffman, Jim Hays, Marcus Harazin, Mark Moritz, Paul Corr, Mary Jablonski, Rick Fink, Chris Rohrs, Merryn Byrnes, Tom Lyon, Dick Arthur.

Allen Farber called the meeting to order at 8:36 and asked everyone to put their computers & phones on mute.

President's Remarks: Jumped right in to try and keep the meeting as short as possible. Asked if there were any revisions to the August 24 emergency meeting, August 24 regular board meeting, or May 20 special meeting.

Secretary's report: Lois made motion to accept minutes as presented, seconded by Mike Durkee. No objections – all minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report- Paul Corr

Reviewed the financial report as presented. Budget is in process. Balance sheet ended in strong financial position with nearly \$70K in cash. Received nearly \$4,000 for ads for the directory. Unrestricted donations + restricted donations are over \$14K. Water quality monitoring comes out of unrestricted funds. Balance sheet page 4 as of today, after paying for fireworks, \$465 remains in the 4th of July fund. Publication reserves is over \$5K to cover directory. The money market has a balance today of \$69,801.

Profit and loss, page 5 - Collected over \$4700 for 4th of July. Water quality monitoring is \$470 (CSLAP) – we pay a membership fee to Adirondack Lakes Alliance. Expecting to pay \$200 more for James Long testing. Donations: Fire department - \$600, North Bush Food Pantry - \$3000 – both expenditures to help community. Food pantry has been giving out cards from Price Chopper. They don't feel there is enough activity and asked if the rest of our contribution could be made to the church which is suffering due to lack of attendance and not being able to do fundraisers. Since we are a 501(c) 3, we should not contribute to religious organizations. Mary agrees and has a suggestion to use money to give certificates like tickets to BBQ for instance. Jim mentioned putting the church lack of funds out to the website so people could make donations directly to the church. Marcus thinks if they don't have the capacity to use the money, maybe we could ask them where there is need in the area since our organization approved it for a food pantry. Could they move it to another food pantry? Mike would like to second the thought that it goes to food pantries and would like to see the money come back to us so we could distribute it accordingly. Deb asked if the Wheelerville school has a food pantry. Mary spoke with one of the teachers at the school and they provide food for families – only a possibility for providing food on the first day of school. Lorrie asked if there is a backpack program. Chris feels we need to find the correct distributor for a food pantry and continue with our donation. Paul and Mary can follow up to find the correct food pantry. Lois Miller made motion to use the money as originally directed. Chris seconded. All were in favor.

Marcus mentioned providing our newsletter to the church. Since we are a conservation organization it wasn't deemed appropriate. Mike would like to see a general non-denominational organization in our area that may need our support.

Allen asked about contributions regarding deceased members. Donations in 2020: \$1600 in memory of David Freeman, John Widdemer - \$2285, and Ellen Rohrs - \$300. Total \$4185.

BUDGET 2021 – Paul thinks it is fully accurate. Did not revise 2020 but 2021 is the same with a few revisions.

- Budgeted expenditures for Invasive species also include lake stewardship training which is shown separately.
- Fish restocking (Tom) – had a problem with the source of our fish.
- Did not pay James Long last year so he may come back and request \$200.
- ADK lake association membership is separated out.
- Youth activities – hopefully, we spend since we have not been doing much in the past few years.
- Water Ski Clinic was as requested.
- Boat parade has changed to \$450. Everything is as expected.
- Rick Fink proposed that we add \$1000 to update one more fire pump next year (2 updated in 2019, none in 2020). Rick made motion; Ed seconded. All in favor – approved.
- Merryn spoke in addition to water quality monitoring – approximately \$200-300 for paddles to sample water for e-Coli. Could not get this year. Old paddles do expire. Requested that this be in budget for 2021. Lois made motion to increase budget by \$300 for water quality monitoring. Ed seconded. All were in favor - approved.

Allen thanked Paul for a very thorough report. Ed made motion to accept, Lois seconded. All were in favor – approved.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- **By-Law Amendment-** Dick Maider.
The proposed amended language to Bylaw Article 5 Section D: “To the extent there is no President-Elect to assume the position of President, the Board shall, at a special meeting, appoint an Acting President to serve until a new President is duly elected and assumes the position”. Need to approve now. Allen asked for a motion to adopt by law change. Lois asked if this year doesn't count if Acting President runs. Allen felt it should be credited as one year. Lois made motion to adopt, Chris seconded, all in favor - approved. This will be presented to membership and needs 2/3 vote to be changed in by laws.

Also brought up if secretary or treasurer was vacant. Allen suggested that these positions be filled by appointment of president for remainder of term in lieu of a special meeting to do so. All agreed.

- **Directory update-** Chris Rohrs.
Very close going to print next week and feels it will be excellent. Cassandra, the designer, has done a phenomenal job, Allen has been incredibly supportive, Merryn has done a great job of

organizing all the data. Ad sales went well beating 2015's total. It will be mailed due to not having distribution opportunity at annual meeting. \$1000 most likely in cost. Most should receive by annual meeting. Allen commented on the great collaboration.

- **ECHO** – Mark Moritz.

Should be ready to go. Had started at school and while moving to home, lost data. Being that it is late, it will be completely up to date. Should be able to pick up by Wednesday. A digital copy will be sent on Monday to the membership only. Mark will send link to Allen who thanked him for a great job.

- **Calendar update**- Fireworks scheduled for July 3. Pine Lake WILL have fireworks on the 3rd. Since our fireworks are private to our lake, we don't see a problem with this. Contract is signed. Ed confirmed flares would be the same night
- **Charitable Contributions**- \$3,000 North Bush Food Bank; \$500 to Fire Department. Do we want to consider additional contributions? Allen recommended we hold off on any further distributions. All agreed.
- **Water Level**- Process is Allen and Doris, as presidents of the CLCA and Stewart's Landing Association, make recommendations to Brian Huyck of the DEC, and copy Bill Fielding for the lake and Henry for Stewart's Landing. The DEC is not comfortable closing the dam any further. Henry commented that this is his 43rd year – “we have never seen the DEC do such a miserable job” – keeping the gate open. They tried to repair leak. There is, in his opinion, sufficient leakage that the lower gate can be closed. Henry feels the two organizations should get together and go to higher ups to suggest that something be done on the management by the DEC. Allen mentioned the presidents are in frequent contact with Brian. Chris asked if the repair was successful. Henry mentioned he was there and saw a “large firehose” looking item that was supposed to fill leak, but it is now in his estimation worse than before. Allen will contact the DEC to mention this. Chris thinks that it would make a substantial difference to close the leak. The biologists of the DEC are always adamant to keep a flow going for fish. It is the responsibility of the DEC to maintain at least a minimal flow downstream. In the opinion of ???, the leakage of the upper gate is equal to the small gate open at 1-1 ½” open. Ed mentioned that DEC is not listening to the knowledge of Bill and Henry. Allen says Brian is listening, is responsive and is getting information from the biologists at the DEC. Chris mentioned he does listen but doesn't always do what we request. The DEC is responsible for the dam, and our role is to make recommendations that the DEC weighs in relationship to other factors. Ed asked if he closed the dam when recommended - answer was NO, but he did open when the lake was going to flood. Last year on Halloween, Brian Huyck did not open the dam when we urged him to. He appreciated our concern but could not because of the flooding downstream. Henry objected to his decision - when we knew the rain was coming and the lake was high – recommended it be opened and he refused. Fourteen (14) families in Dolgeville (downstream) lost their homes including a loss of life. Allen feels he was protecting downstream with this in mind. At the end of May this year with rain in forecast, Brian decided not to close dam, and rain did not happen. We try to be proactive. Chris – next step is to recommend closing small gate with repair not happening. Allen will send an email that Board is recommending closing small gate from one inch to completely closed.

- **Invasive Species Update** - Marcus Harazin, Mike Durkee.
 - **Staffing of program** (Mike). Due to Covid, planning has been hard. Stewards are distributed throughout park, but with the closing of campgrounds, there is up to 3 people sitting at launch. Sent concerns on effective management of this. They are working 12-hour days Friday – Sunday. It is a challenge to ask volunteer stewards go early but suggests 6 am until steward arrives. Jim Hays agreed how important it is to be there in the morning – suggested it be 4:30 am. Weekdays needed as well. Tuesday and Wednesday the town pay a steward for an eight-hour day. Mike has not been able to issue a schedule for volunteers to carry us through July/August. Hopeful to get flexibility with AWI stewards to adjust their workday. Inspections are going on at Canada Lake Marina, boatwash, and West Lake Launch – been a very busy season so far. Caroga Marina should be inspecting boats on the way out – they do not collect money on boats coming out but only on-going in. Will speak with Carol & Karl to see if they can do so. Less concern about boats coming out of West Lake – confident that we are not taking invasive out of lake. Need to be sure boats going in are definitely inspected.
 - **Aquatic Invasives** (Marcus) – we benefitted from AWI staff due to other waterways closing. State is opening Caroga Campground on July 1 and this will change staffing. Attended town board meeting and in contact with town supervisor. Town has loaned us their heated washer. Repairs are necessary on the new machine due to winter issues. Still hard to get people to stop at boatwash. Lake looks clean. Found invasives in Rockwood – fed from Peck Lake & Caroga. Found Curly Pondweed in Caroga and divers are busy trying to remove. Caroga trying to cut down on boats launching on private property. Sherman’s beach opened and there is a launch there...Residents have flagged this as a concern. Data on boats coming into our lake – over 1,000 boats inspected thus far. Coming from 48 lakes and most have invasive species. Kayaks & canoes coming out of Rockwood lake having brittle naiad and milfoil. Northway boatwash is not being used as regulations are not mandated. Would like association to write letter to enforce rules. Thanks all on the board as stewards & inspectors. Need to get word out to engage family members and bring in new people- to increase the work we do. Lorrie – inspection is important but mandating the washing of boats from other lakes before launch is even more so.
 - **Road Salt** (Marcus) – did get copy of resolution to support legislation – bill introduced in senate and request to form a road salt task force – needs support of lake associations. Will draft letter if we approve. Marcus commented further on the resolution – there is a formal advisory group which has a lengthy list of deliverables and includes a pilot program of testing.
 - **Cell Phone coverage & enforcement of clean boats** - Other resolution came from ADK park and local review board (towns & municipalities that give advice) asking them to allow the increase in cell phone coverage (somewhat controversial) and to expand enforcement of boats being clean, drain & dry. Get state to enforce it – need it to be state-wide. Enforcement doesn’t seem to be controversial. Resolution wasn’t voted on. Urging Scott Horton to enforce in town. Rangers to give tickets. Marcus encouraged us that we support both – cell phone coverage & enforcement. Marcus commented on John Olm and his team and the great job they are doing. Allen asked Marcus to draft

letters for both resolutions which he will then send out on behalf of the organization. Mike – enforcement has been controversial since towns are nervous about enforcement. The local body that that drafted this is also nervous but have not come around to enforce at state level. Lake George regulates what happens there and it does not exist in the other areas of ADKs. It encouraged state through DEC to enforce. DEC will then fine boats that aren't registered (more revenue). Those that were reluctant before are now enforcing – Mike recommends we do so as well.

- **Japanese knotweed** (Mary) - could we ask town to help with abatement. Marcus mentioned that APIPP does training on terrestrial invasives and this year it is virtual. Trainings have been run for both aquatic and terrestrial and are available through APIPP site. Caroga is posting on website. Larry Voght has been extremely helpful. Scott Horton is aware. Need to get town on board and the highway department and getting homeowners made aware. Get APIPP to link with towns to find out what each are doing for abatement. Phragmites have been knocked down between Pine Lake & West Lake. There are tools that can be used for free. This information is in Lake Management plan. Allen mentioned that due to COVID, there are a lot of webinars available online. Will consolidate to include for membership. Marcus would like to include a short film that is available on Hemlock Woolly Adelgid as education for our members. Hour long seminars focusing on HWA from Cornell available too. Tom – spoke with Mark Whitmore that due to the mild winter the adelgids will be highly active and move north at a faster rate. Once infected, the trees look gray – you can see the white critters – they aren't hard to identify.

ADK Lake Alliance - Allen attended virtual meeting. Jim Hays met supervisor of Lake Pleasant who was preparing information on septic systems for their community. Jim will get information on what Inlet has and other towns have. If no success, will ask another member to take on. Marcus – discussion with Jack Glenn – have a working group to explore a municipal sewer for Caroga. He will relay information when they pass it on. These are ongoing concerns. We were going to try to get copies of the septic guidelines of Inlet and Queensbury. Is there someone willing to follow up on this?

Lake Safety – need a chair – currently under Mary's jurisdiction. Lois mentioned that person would need to be part of association. Duties – someone responsive to issues that come up on lake. Chris recommended we define it so Mary can fill the position. People in that position prior were uncomfortable enforcing rules due to not knowing actual responsibilities. People did contact Mary last year with issues. Mary will review bylaws and Chris will help. Lois read what it said in directory. Allen mentioned Briana's law – everyone will need Boater Safety Course. By 2025, everyone will need Boater Safety License.

Winter Emergency/Winter Committee - Chair positions are vacant. We should at least fill the former now. In the August meeting it would be good to clarify the roles of the Winter Emergency and Winter committees and who are the chairs.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Renewal of the Volunteer Steward Agreement.** Current agreement expires in January 2021. Directors reviewed the agreement in advance of the meeting. Dave Graves has encouraged us to just continue the existing agreement: “So far it has stood the test of time.” Allen agrees. This covers the West Lake boat launch, island, and Kane Mtn. Mike negotiated this the last time and has offered to do it again this time. Agrees current agreement works for us, but the state may have some changes. Allen spoke with Jon DeSantis who felt it was good to go. Mary would like to be involved as well – is there any language that we are stewards for the campsites – how many there are? Allen mentioned it is not a part of this agreement. Conversation with Jon DeSantis of the DEC about the Island and Mountain. Rick Fink has noticed a dying tree on the Island. Jon DeSantis plans to inspect the tree this summer. Both Brian and Jon are caught with restrictions of COVID but hope to be out to inspect.
- **Fire Tower** is still off-limits. In February we were contacted by Laurie Rankin, Director for the NYS Chapter of the Forest Fire Lookout Association, about doing repairs on the Fire Tower and the Ranger Cabin in collaboration with the DEC. Due to Covid, this work is on hold. Her organization also has a VSA connected to the Fire Tower and Cabin. Would like to see repairs done on cabin. We do not want to be involved with cabin, only fire tower. Major interest in climbing mountain and parking issues on road. At Town Board meeting – would like to engage with the DEC & APA to allow more parking – due to fire hazard caused by excessive parking on road. Town put up signs, but people disregarded. Tim is concerned about the erosion on the mountain. Would like Jon to investigate more switchback trails. This is a dream project. Marcus agreed this is a good discussion to have with them – since they schedule trail work. All trails are having the same issue with the increased traffic. There are volunteers that can do this (foothills of ADK) and our association could also bring volunteers to this. How far can we go to have a plan in place to replace the trail? Allen mentioned the strict rules in place on trimming, etc.
- **Nominating Committee-** Lois Miller. Both Allen and Lois thanked Jim on his last year as director. His work as a director and with invasive species was applauded. Would like to come up with ex officio directors – when directors leave, they will continue to be a part, get information, and allowed to participate in discussions, but not allowed to vote. Our organization would greatly benefit from their continued participation. Should this be an informal agreement or an official bylaw? Jim – thinks it can be informal. When he started work with invasives he was not a director but allowed to speak. Association members can attend the meetings (it’s on the calendar) Ed mentioned that Jim was so far ahead of everyone else with his invasive species work, adding “he is the man”!!! Jim mentioned it was his honor to do so!

Slate of officers was presented as follows:

Allen Farber – President
Marcus Harazin – President elect
Lorrie Mott – Secretary
Treasurer – Paul Corr

A 3-yr term is available – recommends Erin Beaudet, who is interested. 2022 – Randy Fredlund has been asking for years to be on and shown a great interest. John Vesey is at Stony Point and wrote that he is interested in lake safety. Allen made comment – according to bylaws – we have 17-21 positions for directors. If we fill all positions, that doesn’t give us margin for change. If

we wanted to bring on someone new, we would have to have someone drop out. Lois – if you have people that are willing to help – they should be able to join. She has 6 names of people who are interested, but the three recommended are to fill the positions. Mike has decided that this year is his last so there will be a spot open. Chris – thanks Lois for the great job and commends Marcus for stepping up. Allen wanted to find a backup for Paul and wanted to be sure to have a position available to do this. Motion made by Ed to accept slate as presented, seconded by Lois. All in favor - approved.

Committee Reports

All received copies prior to meeting. Allen asked if the written reports are useful – Lorrie mentioned they are, Lois agreed. Allen thinks it expedites the meeting and also provides something to the membership. Lois mentioned Mike Manning is looking for a replacement on the fireworks. Mentioned the company feels it is hazardous – that they don't have a place to run when they light fireworks. Mike asked who owns the island – Allen mentioned the state owns the island and that it may become an issue in the future. Ed mentioned the fireworks are shot off a barge and not the island. Lois mentioned the same concern about flares. Ed mentioned the guys on the barge had no issue when he spoke with them. Ed mentioned Bret Fielding as a replacement for fireworks.

- **Lake Management**- Mary Jablonski.
 - all 5 fire pumps have been checked and are functional. Rick mentioned they are maintained yearly. Spoke with Dick Maider that lake residents should be familiar with equipment.
 - Confirmed Jon will be here to inspect Island. Allen thanked Rick for cleaning up the island of litter due to increased usage.
 - Mary asked about what fish were stocked this spring. Tom – only stocking done was done by DEC in Canada Lake – approximately 3800 trout. Association did no stocking. Hatchery in Utica/Rome area was contaminated and that is why the association put it on hold. DEC's fish did come from Rome.
- **Lake Organization**- Deb Hoffman.
 - Jim went to annual meeting of ADK Lake Alliance – nothing pending.
 - We have 286 members based on deposits in bank and goal is 300 and more are in the mail.
 - Welcoming – Lois can get brochures now that Town is open, but still concerned about social distancing and currently unknown of how many new members there are.
 - Winter committee – group of directors that can act on behalf of directors if an issue comes up. Issue with Stewarts Landing was handled.
 - Winter Emergency – if something happens to a camp or a major weather event. Allen feels Winter committee is essentially not relevant due to internet connection but sees a value in the Winter emergency committee. Suggests Merryn or Mary is a good contact being that they are here. Would need to do amendment to bylaws to remove winter committee. Mary volunteered. Is it too late to eliminate in ECHO...add Mary in place of Tony Sturchio. Jim asked if this committee is responsible for going around to check for damage. No one was on the committee to deal with the recent damage.

- **Lake Activities**- Lois Miller.
 - Ice cream social – no problem getting ice cream. Chris feels it should be cancelled this year due to risk. Lois will contact Stewarts to let them know we will do it again next year.

Allen was thanked for his hard work. Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Corr at 10:51 am, seconded by Lois. All were in favor. Meeting adjourned.