

CLCA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 9, 2022, at 7 pm

Via Zoom and in person at Town of Caroga Firehouse

President Marcus Harazin called meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Introduced Brian MacIntosh, Captain of Fire Department, who welcomed and gave us instructions. The Fire Department will be fundraising for new firetruck as the cost went up 25% in the past year. Chicken BBQ at Campers Corner next week. Poker run taking off at Canada Lake in August. Marcus mentioned that we doubled our contribution to the Fire Department.

President's Remarks – Marcus Harazin:

Noted on the back of the agenda is a list of events with signup sheets for volunteering, as well as the financial report. Tickets for the upcoming luncheon will be sold on the way out. Five people on zoom. Established a quorum with 25 members in room to equal 30. We have some business before presentations. Our committee reports are up on the web. Volunteer signup sheets are in the back for West Lake volunteers - Invasive Species, Highway cleanup and Kane Mountain Stewards. We'd like to get some young family members involved. Thanked all volunteers who helped with putting the meeting today, especially Howard Dutcher as our liaison to the fire department and gave kudos to Mark & his team for the Echo; Bill Fielding, Henry Eifert, and Allen Farber for their work on water level; Lorrie Mott and Randy Fredlund for work on invasive species; Mike Manning & Bret Fielding for fireworks; and Brian and Kristen Franz for Boat Parade. Lots of good events are coming up. Touched on new program at Kane Mountain where we have trained stewards at fire tower. Ninety-six people, a record for one day, were spoken to this past weekend. People from all over the world attended. Great stickers to give to children. Gives us an opportunity to keep an eye on the trail as well as to stress to keep it clean. If anyone is interested in getting involved, let Marcus know. Waterski clinic, kids' event and ice cream social coming up. CPR course coming up July 14, 6-8 pm here at the fire department.

Secretary's Report - Lorrie Mott:

The minutes from last year's meeting were presented. No changes were suggested. Lois Miller made a motion to accept, seconded by Ann Michalek. All in favor – passed.

Treasurer's Report - Paul Corr:

Posted on our website. Ended the year in a good position with \$5,652 in cash with \$59,920 in MM not earning much interest. Covid limited our activity. Built up a good fund. Expecting more activity this year. Profit and loss – 315 members. Donations are very generous. Without restriction \$2,725. Restricted \$10,744.50. These were made in addition to dues in support of our organization. Surplus of nearly \$40K. Balance sheet for 2022 - \$75,651 in bank, \$59,926 in MM. Page 5 – P&L through July 9 – many expenditures not yet paid. 300 members to date. Unrestricted donations of \$3,504, restricted of \$8,741 – \$12,245 total. During the pandemic, there was no training or conference training. Association publications moved to a printer in Amsterdam, bringing our cost significantly lower. Accumulated a significant amount of cash – we doubled our support from prior years to (i.e., Fire Department, Caroga

Arts, Caroga Historical). Account 590 – square charges now allows our payments online. Steve Egan & Erin Beaudet are credited with this. We have a surplus, but our expenditures will increase this year.

Budget (2022) was approved. Directors adjusted this last August due to water quality monitoring. Waterski clinic, luncheon and boat parade were increased to reflect expenditures actually incurred. 2023 budget was increased with water quality and lake steward training, square finance charges, association publications went down \$700. Paul asked for approval for 2022 as modified and 2023 budget.

Rick Fink made motion to accept, seconded by Mary Jablonski. All in favor passed.

Nominating Committee Report – Chris Rohrs

Our job is to bring a slate of officers. 7 directors for 3-year term: Steve Egan, Ed Fake, Randy Fredlund, Mary Jablonski, Dick Maider, Lois Miller and Jon Vesey.

Slate of officers: 1 year term terms: President – Marcus Harazin, President Elect – Rick Fink, Secretary – Lorraine Mott, & Treasurer – Steve Egan, who is replacing Paul Corr. Paul was recognized for his great service with applause. If you would like to be considered for the future, please contact any of the committee members: Chris Rohrs, Dorothy Eifert, Tom Lyons, or Lois Miller.

Chris would like to propose electing the slate of officers as proposed. Majority approved.

Marcus presented Paul with a wine basket and gift certificate on behalf of the association. Thanked him for his hard work and mentorship. A lot of work to deal with taxes and Paul handled it seamlessly and gave us a good solid footing for years to come. Paul responded: It has been a pleasure – gratifying to work with a great board and upstanding members of the community.

Guest speaker – Nancy Muller, Executive Director NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA)

“Efforts to Protect Water Quality in NYS’s Lakes”

Our association is involved with this organization. We learn from other lake associations here. They work in tandem with DEC and run the citizens statewide program. As part of the clean water monitoring in NYS, we get to review the data. John & Merryn Byrnes have been doing this for 20 years.

An electronic version of the presentation will be provided to our website and a handout was provided to meeting participants. Noted how nice Canada Lake is, but she did have a few surprises. We have a 21 yr term of data available. That long term data is now showing some changes.

Federation formed in 1983. Programs were in other states (Minnesota, Wisconsin, & Vermont for example) so a few lake associations in NY worked to form this for our state. Nancy has been involved since 1991 and lake associations have moved from social organizations to working with a wide range of topics (zoning, short term rentals, invasives). Our members are all around our state. Some in academia on the board and others in lake associations. Busy group and always looking for new directors. Website is available and a printed newsletter comes out quarterly. Can join organization for \$15. Reference manual for lakes in NY – Diet for Small Lakes (Lorraine Mott has in possession). Conference in

Lake George this past August. Canada Lake is one of the few lakes that are still clean (applause) but hearing the kayak run makes her nervous as a few invasives cannot be seen on them. Spiny Water Flea at Pecks Lake and Eurasian Milfoil at Caroga are knocking at our door. Working with SUNY Oneonta to write a Lake Management plan to write grants. Their Lake Management program has been 15 yrs with their students working at different lakes (Pleasant Lake & Caroga Lake). They work with colleges & universities, ADK Lake Alliance, Upstate Fresh Water Institute to name a few.

This past year saw 260 lakes providing over 80,000 samples as part of this program. Over 600 volunteers across the state collecting samples. This organization is imbedded into the NYS DEC law. Volunteers must come from Lake Associations. DEC 's program coordinator is Rebecca Gorney. DEC pays for the program costs – does the quality assurance, puts all the data into computer and generates reports. Sampling protocol – all are trained. Everyone samples the same way to give comparable data. Will collect over 11,000 water samples for lakes around our state this year.

What are we sampling – water temperature, transparency, calcium, color, total phosphorus, nitrogen parameters, and chlorophyll A. Looking for harmful algae bloom or swimmers itch. Are we harvesting plants, herbicides, algaecides? Canada Lake always gets beautiful with water clarity. How far down can light penetrate. (4-5 meters) & related to phosphorus and chlorophyll A. Lakes are ecosystems and water quality is referring to the health of this. Harmful algae blooms are starting to appear more and more in NY. Skaneateles Lake turned green in 2017. All Finger Lakes had harmful algae blooms. Very small shoreline blooms on Lake George noted this year. These can persist or last only a day. All samples go to a lab in Syracuse Upstate Freshwater Institute (since 2002). People are doing boat counts, angler surveys, shoreline health, which is huge. 80% of the ecological health of the lake is tied to the health of the shoreline (trees provide shade, cooler water, habitat for fish). APA has started to be concerned about this. Plant trees and get rid of grass.

CSLAP volunteers on Canada Lake found a plant that was a native milfoil...it's a good thing!

Canada Lake isn't as clear as it used to be and that is true. Our water quality is excellent, nutrients and chlorides are low, clarity is good. Brown color is worrisome, but ADK lakes should be brown. Neutral in pH. But it is changing. Ligatrophic lake at beginning but chlorides are creeping up, so moving towards mesotrophic. The brown color is being studied through Syracuse University - pH is rebounding from acid rain. Why is chlorophyll going up in this lake? It is not going up a lot but statistics are showing a rise. Surface water phosphorus and nitrogen is going down. Ammonia & phosphorus are going up in the deep water. DL meter and thermal profiles will help to identify the cause. Weird stuff happening at the bottom. Dissolved oxygen can't be measured by CSLAP but is very critical. Specific chlorides are going up - is it road salt, water softeners, which go through septic systems?

How are we comparing to our neighbors: similar in most (phosphorus, color), but nitrogen is higher than other lakes, yet we are in really good shape. CSLAP report is on our website. You can also go to NYSFOLA to see other lakes.

ALAP & CSLAP report will be posted on the website. Marcus noted we want to be involved in NYSFOLA's Syracuse University study. We increased our budget to do our job. We have an informal workgroup for water quality and if anyone would like to be part of it, let Marcus or any of the officers know.

Questions: 1) Tanneries used to be here...when lakes were more acidic, they got clearer. Things washed in (like tannins) cause browning. Going back to what the lake looked like 300 years ago. Fertilizers don't affect browning but it does affect aquatic plants. 2) State has road salt task force – hoping this makes a difference. John Byrnes offered to people using well water to be tested for salt – potential health risk. Salt in a lake changes the density. Mirror Lake is the poster child for road salt issues. To clarify, surface nitrogen vs deep water (> 25 ft in depth). Twice a year the lake mixes sending cold water to bottom and warm water to top. Phosphorus and ammonia measured at the bottom and phosphorus and nitrogen at top. John Byrnes is seeing a decrease in clarity in recent samples. John has a DL meter that NYSFOLA can borrow. 3) Rumors that DEC is cutting funding to CSLAP. Next 2 years no changes. But after that – contract negotiations in works. CSLAP will look different in 2025. 4) How concerned should we be about the golf course fertilizing as it runs into a stream which runs into the lakes. Red flag if they are using a high nitrogen fertilizer. Sample the tributary and be sure they are using best management practices. There will be additional testing. Marcus will share information with Scott and golf course. Applause for Nancy Muller & John Byrnes.

Guest speaker – Scott Horton, Supervisor Town of Caroga – Update on Town Issues

Learned how to sail on Canada Lake. Graduated from Union College as a Civil Engineer. Diverse background in building around the nation. Purchased land on Caroga and built to stay permanently. The presentation tonite will be presented again at the Town Board meeting July 13. A mailing was delivered to everyone. Report done by CT Male in 2010: ends of joists in town hall are severely rusted and getting worse; one of three boilers is not functional, will need to replace; Gymnasium ceiling and floor tiles are asbestos; Need to put carpeting in for youth due to this. Town barn – eyesore. Functional for many years, but as equipment got larger and with only one door, things need to be removed in order. The Highway Department is considered an emergency and they need to get equipment out quickly. The heating bill \$11k/mo last winter. Tear this down and use it for parking for the clubhouse. Can't work on equipment in the building...move to a new building down to where the cell tower is.

Need to rebuild the clubhouse. \$3M insurance settlement. 1.5 will only be paid if we rebuild. Moving Town hall will be savings for taxpayers with one septic, one well, etc. we are the first public group to hear....one grant for \$350,000, applying for grant for salt shed to get away from Irving Pond Creek. \$10M project, bonding \$5 million, \$3M from insurance proceeds, \$1M in fund balance. Town is rated from State Comptroller as 1 (being the best). \$1M missing - \$500,000 grading work, heating system, furnishings, stonework. Of the \$10M budget 25% is contingency in budget. Value engineering - do we really need? – cut space in town hall. Taxes – 340,000 debt service offset with new clubhouse bringing in more revenue, more energy savings. (\$60K). With this a 2.75 tax increase is expected. Plan B is not in place.

Questions: 1) Is there a timeframe when the clubhouse has to commence. Supposed to be 2 years, but insurance company has given us a little leeway. Plan is to move salt shed this year using insurance proceeds (\$1.4M). Next phase is to move town highway garage – early to middle of next year – tear down old building. Presenting a \$1M bond this year for referendum in November and a special election to get clubhouse started. 2) What will happen to the current town hall – asbestos? Cheaper to take it out when no one is there. Market the property to see an Adirondack inn there around 35 rooms. Potable water and leech field and regulatory certainty is there. Probably would not sell but would want

to lease at \$35K/yr. Getting \$12K/yr from tower. About \$2M tax revenue from in – town gets 4%. 3)
Has there been any impact on the town employees due to asbestos? We hope not. No one has
threatened and no testing has been done recently. Worried about a catastrophic collapse in roof or
floor.

Marcus mentioned that Wednesday's town meeting is the best place to go to learn about this. Town
has been very helpful with invasive species to get boatwash up & running, driveway fixed, hire the staff,
etc. Be part of the meetings as it does impact you.

Luncheon tickets will be sold outside. Looking for chairperson for firetower committee....see Mary or
Marcus. Lorrie – needs people to fill in slots at West Lake Boat Launch....5:30-7:30 am and 4-6 pm. Lots
of boats launching after AWI leaves at 4 pm. They are coming from places with invasives so we need
those slots filled. There is no control otherwise.

Refreshments made by Heather (Lake Effect Café). Lois Miller made motion to adjourn, Dixon Peters
seconded....all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – all available on website.