

**MINUTES**  
**CLCA Directors' Meeting**  
**Saturday June 25, 2022**  
**At 8:30 AM via Zoom and in person at the Caroga Town Hall**

**Attendees in person:** Marcus Harazin, Brian Franz, Rick Fink, Mary Jablonski, Lois Miller, Stephen Egan, Henry Eiffert, Dick Maider, Paul Corr, Erin Beaudet, Allen Farber, Dave Graves

**Attendees by Zoom:** Randy Fredlund, Mark Moritz

Marcus Harazin, President, called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM.  
The meeting was recorded via laptop and mini recorder.

**President's Remarks - Marcus Harazin**

Marcus introduced his sister, Beth, who operated the Zoom Meeting and recorded it on a lap top computer. Marcus welcomed and thanked everyone for attending. He complimented the directors on their cooperative efforts to work as a "perpetual motion machine," carrying out the Association's business and responsibilities. He noted the great work that Randy and Lorrie have done, working with the town, and getting things up and running with the Invasive Species Lake Stewards and Inspectors. He explained that Mary Jablonski was stepping in to take notes and record the meeting, as CLCA Secretary, Lorrie Mott, was unable to attend. He handed out his agenda, and the alcohol policy draft for later discussion.

**Secretary's Report - Mary Jablonski**

No changes were made to the CLCA July 10, 2021, Annual Membership Meeting Minutes. Lois Miller wanted to clarify that Marcus was "stepping down" as Chair of the Invasive Species Lake Inspection Committee, as reported in Allen Farber's President's Remarks, line 8, to become the CLCA President, and not resigning from the Association's Board. Lois also suggests Lorrie use her name in reporting, rather than the pronoun "I".

No changes were made to the CLCA August 22, 2021, Directors' Meeting Minutes. Dave Graves motioned to accept the minutes for both meetings and Lois Miller seconded it.

**Treasurer's Report - Paul Corr**

Highlights: Cash in checking and savings accounts is \$77,371.44, with \$17,446.74 in checking and \$59,924.70 in a money market. The total amount includes unrestricted assets of \$40,620.11, restricted assets of \$25,032.37, and a net income of \$11,718.96. Paul reviewed changes to the Water Quality budget of an increase to \$2,500 for

additional testing requested by the committee. He noted the Water Quality budget will be included under one heading, rather than Water Quality and CSLAP in the future. He noted the Fourth of July Fund activities for July 2nd have been paid, with \$2,809.02, remaining in the budget for 2023. A new expense, noted as Square Finance Charges, in the 2022 budget of \$145.62, allows Association members to pay their membership dues with a credit card.

Paul was notified prior to the meeting of changes to be made to the 2022 and projected 2023 budgets for the Annual Luncheon and Social. These changes were made at the August 2021 Directors' Meeting to \$300, and the Boat Parade budget to \$600. Paul explained the Annual Luncheon and (Ice Cream) Social events, two separate events, were combined as one line item in the budget. After further discussion, Lois recommended that line in the budget be increased to \$350, to accommodate both events. She made the motion to accept the changes in the 2022 and projected 2023 budgets for the Luncheon and Ice Cream Social to \$350, and the Boat Parade, in both budgets, to \$600. Rick seconded the motion. 291 Association members have paid their dues to date. Memberships are continuing to come in. With the ECHO being published by Miller Printing, Amsterdam, N.Y., the cost of printing has decreased, and is in the 2023 budget for \$1,500. Also adding \$105.50 to waterski clinic.

Lois made motion to accept the changes to the 2022 budget and 2023 budget.

Seconded by Rick Fink. Unanimously approved.

Question raised by David Graves: is there a limit to how much we can have in the bank? NYS changed and we came under the threshold. \$25,000 in receipts was the limit, \$50,000 in assets. NYS filing is required if we exceed this amount. All the federal and state filings have been completed. Filing has been simplified now at a cost of \$50. With the amount in our account, maybe our donations should be increased. The fear of invasive species, sending divers down, will run through our funds very quickly. If there are other places we should donate, lets discuss. \$100 used to be a lot of money, but not anymore. No one objected to the doubling of the current donations for 2022 & 2023. \$500 for Fire Department. Motion made by Brian Franz to increase donations. Seconded by Lois Miller. All in favor.

Lois requested we give thanks to Paul for all his hard work.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**Renewal of steward agreement.** Allen had discussion with John DeSantis last year and Marcus had the same discussion this spring. Things are moving through DEC legal. Covers Kane Mtn, Nick Stoner Island, and West Lake Boat Launch. Nothing has changed – there is a backlog of stewardship agreements. He is changing the date, so it runs 2021-2026. We are continuing as is. Agreement has been tweaked a bit but is working well.

**Fire Tower Lookout Association of NY** has worked with DEC to do renovation on cabin. Long range plans to reopen as a place for visitors with a map and some period items to be similar to other towers such as Blue Mountain. The CLCA had partnered with the Fire Tower Look Out Association and DEC to train stewards to work at the

mountain – one weekend a month this summer. Mary & Joe Jablonski, Nancy Myers Fink, Marcus and Ann Michalek have volunteered. First weekend saw 120 visitors mostly from out of the area....Germany was the farthest, mid-western states, NYC and most did not know about the area. Talked about the Fulton Five hikes. There is a new patch, thanks to Dick Loomis, at the Canada Lake Store. People see it and want to ask questions. Stickers and tattoos of Smoky Bear and leave no trace are being made available to younger visitors to help reinforce good environmental practices. Great opportunity to volunteer – good exercise if you know of anyone that wants to be a part.

Tim Mitchell and Dave Graves have worked hard over many years to keep the trail pristine. Graffiti & vandalism can still be an issue, but our presence seems to deter that a bit. Concern about dogs – there is a leash law, so people need to be reminded about that.

We are stewards of the tower & the trail but not the cabin. They intend to do more work and will notify Marcus. Town has widened the parking lot & given more room on road for more parking.

Campsites – 2 on Lily Lake and 1 on West Lake. Agreement doesn't mention West Lake. Marcus will mention that to John DeSantis.

**Water Level** – Allen Farber has generously offered to continue to serve as the liaison to DEC for water levels with Henry and Bill monitoring levels. Randy is also helping with Stewarts Landing. Meeting with DEC never occurred that we had planned for last year. Lawsuit for Halloween flood – deposing plaintiffs and defendants in early May. Water level has been perfect this year and we haven't done anything! Dam must be holding. Sandbags are working at the tainter gate. We have been maintaining 1" with no adjustments. Henry is concerned about maintaining flow downstream.

**ECHO** – Mark Moritz – we are in a good place. Mark will continue to the 70<sup>th</sup> year. Next year is his 21<sup>st</sup> yr on the ECHO so he wants to go out big! Thanked Mark and Allen and all of the EHCO committee members for their great work on this years publication.

**Alcohol Policy** – a draft policy was passed around for review. It was created with collaboration of Mark, Lois, Allen & Dick Maider.

This policy would be supplied to the hosts of the various events. It was intended to not be overly restrictive or liberal.

We cannot charge for any alcoholic beverages as this would require licensing and would not be covered by our insurance policy.

There was a brief discussion regarding the draft policy.

Brian Franz wondered where was coming from. Allen responded that Kristen sent a bill for the hard alcohol which introduced the idea of hard liquor at an event. It was suggested two years ago not to have the Fish Punch at the Boat Parade event.

Dick Maider mentioned the thought was we should have guidelines. This is a business decision and should be considered as a complete body.

Marcus mentioned that we should put up some parameters since there were highly publicized alcohol related accidents/deaths in our region and we would like to try and like to prevent this from happening here.

Brian said he thought this would increase the liabilities of the event host. It would make it less likely that people will step up to run an event. Hosts should be able to monitor the events on their own.

Dick didn't think it increased liability. This acknowledges that there is a social host policy. Brian thinks that whoever is hosting should already know this.

Rick asked what the liability would be. We live in a society where accidents just don't happen, someone is responsible.

We have a great insurance policy, have not had to pay a dime for the suit from Halloween flood.

Brian doesn't find it necessary and would be difficult to implement in terms of the alcohol level of beverages as noted in the draft policy. We do fun stuff and people will drop out if we don't.

Marcus said these points well taken, but this gives us a policy. This protects the host and the organization.

Erin – the host should take precautions. It's a judgment call to ask the host if they did. Brian felt by passing this, liability gets passed to the host. It's a deterrent for him if he had to sign a waiver – no waiver needs to be signed. Dick mentioned we live in a society where accidents don't just happen, someone is always responsible. There are many frivolous lawsuits as a result.

There was a discussion about what other organizations do. Some don't allow alcohol at all. Some require people to be ID'd and banded.

This wasn't directed to just the boat parade party but to any CLCA sponsored event.

Brian noted this could put an end to the Boat Parade.

Allen- it does put the onus back on the sponsor by discouraging them from serving hard alcohol. Dick – can we tweak the language.

Lois – what is the wording for this policy in the last minutes

Marcus noted we have had a good discussion and should vote to move on this or not.

Lois Miller made a motion to not have a policy as proposed. Seconded by Brian Franz. 7 in favor with two abstentions and 3 in opposition. Motion passed.

**Irving Pond** – Rick Fink – We had informal discussions with Town and Golf Course about possibly reconstructing the dam. Last year the CLCA wrote a letter of support to the Town on this issue. Town would have to take the lead and felt it was too much due to cost, liability, time, regulatory process. Considering using Irving Pond as irrigation for golf course but it didn't have enough head pressure. The dam was removed by the Town Board and they now realize this was a mistake.

**Water quality** – People are noticing a change in the color of Canada Lake – seems more like a tea color. This was picked up in our CSLAP and ALAP testing. Received recommendations from them and will expand our testing. ALAP sampling will be expanded to cover West Lake, Green Lake, and Irving Pond. Marcus saw the results from both CSLAP & ALAP & called together a work group including Dave Graves, Rick Fink, Chris Rohrs, James Long, and Merryn & John Byrnes. The group looked at ALAP

and CSLAP data. Our water was good but there are some changes in the character of the lakes. We have over 20 years of data. pH is increasing and ALAP should be able to help us.

We need to continue educating members on runoff of septic systems and keep an eye on possible runoff from sources like the public golf course. Noted the golf course has put 6,000 lbs of fertilizer on the course this year and there are many of places from there leading to the lake. Marcus asked Rick Fink and Chris Rohrs who are golfers to get together with him to work with the town as “good neighbors” to try to learn more about the current practices and help protect against run off. Eliminate this as an issue. We have also invited Nancy Mueller the Director of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations to come and discuss water quality at our general membership meeting. Nancy also helps coordinate the CSLAP program.

Results of the CSLAP & ALAP testing are posted on our website and a key/glossary will be provided to help know how to read them.

Another issue is road salt – would like to give lake residents an opportunity to identify if their wells near the road are impacted and have them tested each year to see if there are patterns in road salt. Instructions will be given as to how to conduct testing and provide to John Byrnes. Caroga has more of an issue as we know it is getting into the lake but also want to determine if it is getting into the wells. A number of wells have been closed (in Speculator) due to this issue. Some townships (i.e. Town of Hague) are testing alternatives so they can reduce road salt use. Once it’s in the ground water, it’s always there and causes changes that we are unsure of the impact.

Margaret Newell is our Adirondack liaison and will be reporting back on issues there.

We also need to work to find other people that will help with water quality to help replace James McMartin who has indicated would like to cut back from taking all the ALAP samples. John and Merryn have also been doing CSLAP for about 20 years. James has also collected some samples from West Lake, Green Lake, and some grab samples from Irving Pond and the golf course road culvert to show changes above and below golf course. Irving Pond is very shallow, which doesn’t allow for the deep sampling. Green Lake is great 6 meters down in terms of visibility as opposed to Canada Lake.

The CLCA will also get involved in study being done by ESF that looks at the browning of lakes. Some lakes are returning to the state from MANY years ago prior to acid rain which tended to make lake water clearer.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominations** – Chris Rohrs Terms that expire in 2022 are Steve Egan, Ed Fake, Randy, Mary, Richard Maider, Lois Miller, Jon Vesey. Marcus and Rick both need to be presented on the slate for July as well as they stand for election annually. Chris will also include candidates for future openings.

**Kane Mountain Fire tower** – The CLCA and the Forest Fire Lookout Association (FFLA) would like to include old pictures of Kane Mtn on our website and the FFLA website. Found some from the 1950’s that showed a ladder for access to the top. The Kane Mountain Lookout Tower centennial is coming up in 2025. Would like to have

something special in the town. Also, the state will have a lookout tower lighting in August.

**Zoning** – Allen brought up that a new garage was put up in the last week at the end of Fulton Road is a monstrosity. Permit requires a home put up within 2 years. Rick spoke to John & Pat Saunders, who thought they had slipped the variance in on Nov 4. In 2024 would need to show a residence there. Not sure how a variance was given so close to the road. Thought is that it might be for boat storage. Lois said we don't take positions on this...that is the town. You could make an anonymous request to the inspector. It was not put through zoning board and went up "overnight". Allen spoke to Doug Purcell and Jamie Long and a few neighbors. Possibly put together a petition to go to the town board. Did they need a variance? Talk to Anthony or Jennifer.

**Town Street Light Plan** - calls for some lights to be eliminated at Point Breeze Road and Kasson Drive. People feel it is important for safety reasons, and some feel it is not good as you can't see headlights of oncoming vehicle. Other lights might be an issue as well with people walking in the evening. The Point Breeze Road is a beacon and a critical light and being removed. Residents are impacted as well as snowmobilers. Map on town website was very hard to read and doesn't show the entire town (West Lake was cutoff). Could petition the town for lights but may be a charge to residents. Marcus suggested that residents on the lake who are affected should let their concerns be known to the town as soon as possible.

Town Supervisor has been invited to our membership meeting. It will give us and opportunity to learn about the Towns plans and give him an opportunity to learn about our concerns.

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

### **Lake Activities – Lois Miller**

- Ice Cream social hosted by Rob and Lydia Bates on Kasson Drive.
- Luncheon will be at Nick Stoners Seafood & Steakhouse.
- Picnic at Dykeman's (formerly Cannon's).
- Purchased a projector and outdoor screen so that we could host a movie.  
Looking for a place.

The Board presented Allen Farber with his gift as it wasn't available at the last annual meeting. It is a special wall map of Canada Lake that includes the location of his camp.

**Environmental - Dave Graves:** looking for input from group. Invasive species & environmental issues work – how can we coordinate. Hemlock Woolly Adelgid found on 250 acres in Lake George. Created an initiative with APIPP, Cornell, DEC and others. Save our Lake George Hemlocks was created and uses airplane remote sensing imagery – captures infrared data and can capture hemlock trees with hemlock needle loss to provide evidence of forest decline and direct land crews to these sites. Should our organization tap into this? Would this be viable for us? We belong to

APIPP and can raise this with them. Infestation may be in a place that people don't frequent. This does make things easier and faster than the surveys. Consortium is a large group that is all tied into this and out front on this initiative. Possibly Maggie Newell can find out. We have pushed out information on our website to have residents check their trees.

**Invasive Program:** Helping at boat launch when there are gaps in coverage. The Town asked Marcus to check on the DEC grant program for invasive species. Catherine, the program Director for DEC said funding will happen in the fall if available. We would like to try and increase the number of stewards placed in Caroga by AWI from 2 to 3 next season.

Kayak Poker Run at the lake on August 13 as fundraiser for Fire Department. Gives us an opportunity to educate boaters and ask them to be washed. New Law went into effect June 8, 2022, requiring all boaters to get washed and certified or self-certify but enforcement is still in question. This is still being figured out with DEC. In the past, they put up symbolic roadblocks to check. Other states are more aggressive and do not allow launching without a seal that they washed. Lorrie Mott will be coordinating with the Fire Dept. and getting volunteers to help that day for inspection.

Town is continuing to fund-the boat inspection program and boat inspection program. The CLCA must continue to remind local policy makers at the Town that Canada Lake can get invasives. Rockwood Lake has milfoil, naiad, and curly leaf pondweed that all came from Pecks and Caroga Lake via the streams. Pecks Lake & Caroga Lake have milfoil- It is not just Canada Lake that the Town program protects. We are a regional hub and a real service to all the lakes around. Some local folks think boat wash is a waste of money and also question why it is across from the Town Hall instead of at the West Lake launch.

### **Lake Management**

Mary wants to thank Henry and Bill for all they do on water level and Allen for his communications

Rick – authorized new dock on the island and hope to have Bruce Busch install and remove every year on a voluntary basis in perpetuity. DEC owns the dock. Island was recently cleaned as it was very dirty. All fire pumps were started and run well.

**Lake safety** – Brian Franz: Boater safety course advertised in ECHO is available for 30 people. July 9 from 8-4 and number (518-736-2200) listed to call for signup. By January 1, 2025, law applies to everyone. DEC will be checking for licenses. CPR Course July 14.

Lois Miller made the motion to adjourn, Rick Fink seconded. All in favor as they headed for the muffins!