

MINUTES
CLCA Directors' Meeting
Saturday August 21, 2022
At 8:30 AM via Zoom and in person at the Caroga Town Hall

Attendees in person: Marcus Harazin, Rick Fink, Mary Jablonski, Lois Miller, Stephen Egan, Henry Eiffert, Dick Maider, Allen Farber, Dave Graves, Randy Fredlund, Bob Baker, Lorrie Mott, Ed Fake

Attendees by Zoom: Tom Lyon, Paul Corr

Absent: Erin Beaudet, Mark Moritz, Brian Franz, Jon Vesey (hospitalized)

Marcus Harazin, President, called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM.
The meeting was recorded via recorder.

President's Remarks - Marcus Harazin

Welcomed everyone and noted the materials on the back table and the Zoom participants. The last event is the flare lighting, which will be enhanced with the fire tower being lit as an honor to the firefighters. Volunteer stewards will be going up and lighting the tower. The volunteer steward program on Kane Mtn is working well with one weekend a month. Talked to over 500 visitors thus far and this presence & education has helped to avoid graffiti and litter. Appreciates all the work being done by all our VP, volunteers and committee chairs.

Youth activity participation was low so would like to improve on that for next year. Thanked Hillary Davis and Dee Dee Leaf, co-chairs of the ski event who are retiring. Ward Halverson will be taking over. Also thanked Lois Miller who is retiring as Lake Activities Chair and has done a phenomenal job, pumping up our membership and set the bar very high with successful promotion of our lake activities moving.

Marcus attended the ADK Lake Association Meeting with his wife Ann and was joined by Walter Hogan from Caroga (Coordinator of Invasive Weed Removal) and Jay Pierz from Pleasant Lake.

Thanked Bob Baker and Brian Franz for their work on Lake & Boater Safety issues since we do get a lot of calls & emails with speeding, wakes, and noise. Marcus appreciates hearing from our members. He sent out a note to our membership about boating safety rules and followed up on calls. Brian Franz sent out info on boater safety course. Jon DeSantis of DEC has been contacted and 2 ENCON officers have been on our lake on a Friday (low boater traffic). The ENCON officers cruised the lake and also had a presence at the boat launch. Very slow day then but Saturday and Sunday had much more activity. Once they get signs printed and painted for the 5

mph signs to be put at the end of Sawdust Creek and entrance to West Lake. The ENCON officers' phone number will be sent out to our membership to contact in cases such as illegal camping, fires, safety, etc. Sheriffs will also be here this year and have been asked them to be here at least once a month in addition to the ENCON officers, giving us two days of enforcement. They both note that they are very busy with Sacandaga Lake.

Secretary's Report – Lorrie Mott

Secretary was notified of 3 small changes to the 6/25/22 minutes – 2 name changes and adding “motion passed” to Alcohol Policy.

Changes received during meeting: Remove Island as a campsite. FFLA - Forest Fire Lookout Association. Lorrie will make the changes and submit to Allen.

Motion to approve the minutes with changes made by Lois Miller, seconded by Mary Jablonski. All in favor – motion carries.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan

Balance Sheet and Income statement sent out; copies were made available.

Not a lot has changed since the last meeting. Total Income within \$1200 of the annual revenue budgeted. Almost broke even on the annual luncheon. Picnic came in under budget. No bills are pending other than a few reimbursements from Marcus. Not a lot of changes expected by year end. We should be coming in ahead of budget for the year, with about a \$2000 profit.

Marcus asked when the last time dues were raised. Ed Fake was the last one to raise dues in 2006 from \$12 to \$15. 305 members (\$9150) with some still straggling in. Ed's thought on budget with Fourth of July fireworks celebration that the figure will probably increase. This is a very popular event and has almost been paid for next year. Rick Fink made a motion to accept report as presented. Seconded by Dave Graves. All in favor – motion carried. Marcus thanked Steve Egan for taking over and Paul Corr for helping with the transition.

OLD BUSINESS

Water Level – Allen Farber reported Brian Huyck (DEC) proactively closed dam down halfway. Lawyer called Allen and the Town of Manheim is asking for information, which Allen provided. Doesn't expect anything until next January. Plaintiffs aren't asking for discovery. Dick had contacted the attorney (Brad Hunt from Syracuse firm of MacKenzie & Hughes) before he filed the lawsuit. It's a blessing we have a great insurance policy. Usually there is a deductible for a lawyer, but our insurance policy has not required any legal bills. Marcus received some calls in regard to water level and explained that we are in a drought – most lakes are low at this point. Most were from people that were trailering and not our lake residents.

Invasive species – Randy Fredlund is getting reports in from his inspectors and thanks them for this. They will be consolidated once all are in. No reports show any invasives. Marcus did do Sawdust Creek and there were changes in the weeds. Saw a lot of bladderwort and grass. Native milfoil was spotted. Did not see a lot of pondweed in areas where it was before.

Lorrie Mott reports on the # of boats that have come through the Decon Station (163), Caroga Campsite (498) and West Lake Boat Launch (1938). Boater traffic is up with many boats launching after the AWI steward leaves at 3:30 pm. She continues to request volunteers to man the launch from 4-6 pm, especially on the weekend.

Thanked those that have filled in 5:30 – 7:30 am over the weekend and one that has done Monday & Tuesday mornings. She also reported on the Caroga Lake Fire Department Poker Run that was held on August 13 launching from the Lakeside Motel on our lake. There were quite a few that came from lakes/rivers that had invasives and almost all were not washed. Only 9 kayaks were washed at the decontamination station that morning before launching. Some also launched at the boat launch.

Marcus noted that DEC still doesn't have an enforcement plan, but we encouraged a DEC representative to help educate. Most participants were totally unaware of the law and a few were adamant that they didn't have to comply. Suggestion was to do a press release at the end of the season. Lorrie passed around a listing of lakes in the ADKs with invasive species. Town of Caroga has been paying for the stewards at the boatwash. AWI pays for the two stewards, one at Caroga Campsite and one at West Lake Boat launch. We have asked for three (one to be at the boatwash) to take some burden off the town. CLCA needs to continue to advocate with the town for this funding. DEC has \$17M in budget but none has been spent as well as the law not being enforced. Supervisor Horton attended our general meeting and heard our guest speaker from NYSFOLA. Mike Durkee will be leaving the committee as of December. Marcus, John Glenn, Scott Horton and Walter Hogan from Caroga are working together. Still many people believe that our lake cannot get invasive species. Walter Hogan is very committed to getting the Eurasian Milfoil removed from Caroga Lakes. They are exploring the new herbicide, but waiting to see how it happens in other lakes. The town is paying thousands of dollars for the divers. He has also offered to help Marcus with the Canadian Geese in the spring.

Water quality – John Byrnes is getting samples for salt in local wells.. Would like to put out the word again for samples. There is an effort in the state from the Road Salt Task Force to move to a 50% reduction in road salt for the ADKs.

Did a deep oxygen profile – no issues currently. Usually average around 4.5 – lake clarity is now at 5. It went down to 3. It might be clearer since there is no rain to move organic material in the lake. ALAP – disc readings have been better this year. Sawdust Creek is also very clear as well as West Lake. Copies on Lake browning will be available to our membership. Rick Fink and Chris Rohrs approached Scott Horton in regard to the golf course. He agreed to having a meeting with Steve Stedman. They have sent email to request meeting. Mary was at the last town board meeting and asked what they were doing to make sure that chemicals were not going into the stream. They claimed that fertilizer was very low – one gallon of herbicide to 200 gallons of water. They have also used granulated 25 ft from stream.

Boater Safety – Brian put together information on cost of buoys. Discussion for signage – DEC will take care of. Dolgeville Point, Lily Lake – need to decide what to put on it and get it registered. 5 mph within 100 ft of shore. Map posted showing this. DEC can enforce this as it is a law. Can get a local ordinance for a No Wake Zone (5 mph or less). May be more difficult to enforce with our narrow lake. Need a team of volunteers to put in and take out these buoys. There is liability for buoys that aren't registered. Brian asked for additional funding to be considered. \$600 for buoy plus anchor and chain. Rick is willing to donate. Should they be lit? Randy spoke about a NJ resident going through channel at 30mph as he has a photo. State has installed a sign for 5 mph this summer. Where would we send pictures as DEC (NCON & sheriff). Bob Baker said 80% of people on the lake are good stewards of our lake. The other 20% are a worry, but we should hold them accountable for following the rules. Noted a number of safety issues that have been brought to him as well as a person who didn't feel that having the sheriff on the lake was necessary – “we police ourselves”. Lois is concerned that the 20% will still not comply. Bob feels that we need to look at our safety issues from a number of different perspectives. Mary talked about loon nests on shoreline and how boats going by fast could impact them. Bob Baker – would the state put up money to protect loons? If we don't set aside funding, then we would have to have a special meeting to get ready for next season. Dave Graves asked if there is a fund for boater safety that we could bump up? We will need a bigger committee to help deal with this. Steve Egan mentioned there is no line item at this time – could put the number in the budget for next year. Rick, Bob, Brian, Marcus to get on a call to get this completed. Sawdust Creek has jetskis that “race” to get to the lake and have sometimes come in close contact with kayakers. Randy – how do you manage success. Get info out to members about what we are doing here.

NEW BUSINESS

Poker Run – see above. Lorrie Mott noted the Fire Department was in awe and were thankful that we were there. There was a concern that we were going to slow down the process but everything ran smoothly. Lorrie & Marcus attended the awards ceremony and gave out 5 - \$10 gift certificates to the boaters that were washed. Marcus gave the fire department kudos. We helped our relationship with the Lakeside Motel. Would it be annual? It is unknown if they may make the course shorter. The hotel was receptive. It was a family affair. We will debrief Howard with the report completed (attached). Would like to get on top of it for next year. Note the successes and the things that need improvement. Suggestion was having registration at the boatwash!

Calendar – passed out to directors. Were there any changes? How can we be flexible for all the activities that seem to conflict with other events? Allen can look into Museum and CAC to be able to move events for the CLCA to prevent conflict. Propose Directors meeting to the last weekend in August. Lois made motion & Lorrie

seconded. All in favor - motion carried. Discussion – Rick that we have flexibility with CAC and Historical. Ice cream extravaganza will be at the Bates. Need to put a poster at the store with balloon. Weekly event – story event on the island for instance...there were volunteers that did all this in the past. Get grandparents involved.

Committee membership lists – have vacancies for chairs of certain activities. People on the board of Directors should chair something. Directors may be removed from board after missing 2 consecutive meetings (Article 5 Section F). Need to encourage people to be involved. Let our members know about becoming active on our board and within activities. Paul Corr – we have done an admirable job thus far, but he has had people contact him to get more information about becoming involved. Establish processes for getting involved. Posting on website for openings.....what other approach to create transparency? Marcus would like to have a call with Lois and Paul and recent past presidents on how to do this. Needs a VP of Lake Activities, Chairs for Fire tower committee and Island. Need to work with Chris for nominations. Allen asked how can emails help out with this.

Street Light plan – Rick posted keeping the lights at Point Breeze Road. Important safety issue for residents and snowmobilers and firemen. Mary mentioned that she heard from the Town Supervisor and a board member that Rick’s proposal to the town board was wonderful and made a big difference.

Welcoming Committee – need to print more REWARD signs. Ed mentioned about \$500 reward given to a gentleman on Pine Lake who stopped the stream of robberies on the neighboring lakes. Amount of \$500 stands.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Committee reports – need to get report sent prior to meeting. Committee lists – need to put the word out on this.

Mary noted that Rick sent updates on his committee members. Island was cleaned 4 times. Second fireplace was set up and dismantled by Rick. Fire pumps all checked on a yearly basis. Ed Fake sees from his camp that activity on the island increased significantly. This is sometimes viewed as a rest stop. Bob Baker approached a person building a fire on the island and the gentleman was very apologetic. Rick – several dead trees. Could we cut down? Island is owned by the state. We would need to work with Jon DeSantis. If we want to have a sign made in regard to “island rules” – we could put it on the dock. If any suggestions, let Marcus know.

Boat Parade report_– Kristin Franz – will be included in Lois’s committee report.

Loon committee – Jane Davis will keep everyone informed about loons.

Lois Miller made the motion to adjourn at 10:22, Rick Fink seconded. All in favor!

NEXT MEETING is JUNE 17 at 8:30 am in the TOWN HALL.