

**MINUTES**  
**CLCA Directors' Meeting**  
**Saturday June 17, 2023**  
**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, Lorrie Mott, Tom Lyon, Paul Corr, Jon Vesey, Chris Rohrs, Brian Franz, Dick Maider

**Attendees by Zoom:** Mark Moritz

**Guests present:** Janice Corr, Kate Freeman, Ken Luttmann

**Absent:** Erin Beaudet, Bob Baker, Ed Fake

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 introduced our three guests, Janice Corr, Kate Freeman & Ken Luttmann, who agreed to sit in and see how our board works. They will be stepping up to fill roles for the retirement of many long and active members. Asked all of us to speak with them to help provide our "institutional knowledge" with this organization and "share the love". Noted how Allen posts the minutes and provides great history. The President's update and committee reports were provided prior to the meeting. Marcus provided the following highlights: we've been very busy between the meetings in the different committees.

- Will continue to monitor water quality and provide update after the workgroup meeting.
- Reminded us of the stewardship agreement with the DEC with the island, Kane Mt & trails and the campsites, along with the invasive species.
- Marcus filed a 2 year report with DEC in Northville, who are very pleased with what we are doing. There is a new DEC volunteer agreement for the volunteers (ex: West Lake Boat Launch) – this will cover the volunteers for any injuries during that time. The same agreement applies to the Kane Mtn stewards.
- Our association has supported Kane Mtn and was integral in stopping the tear-down of the tower. Recent vandalism was reported to DEC (license plates noted). DEC will have trail crews working and surveying the trails. The centennial is 2025 – looking for a committee to join with the Forest Fire Lookout Association and brainstorm for ideas of how to celebrate and educate.

**Secretary's Report – Lorrie Mott**

Minutes were provided prior to the meeting. Minutes of August 22, 2022 – Allen Farber noted the spelling of John Desantis was incorrect – correct to Jon Desantis. Rick Fink would like the wording about “testing that the golf course is fertilizing, and it is running off to the lakes” removed since it there was no factual evidence. (searched but found this was already accomplished prior to minutes going out). Lois Miller asked that Ice Cream Social be changed to Ice Cream Extravaganza. Lois motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Dave Graves. Motion carried. There were no changes to the July 9, 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. Mary Jablonski motioned to accept, Jon Vesey seconded. Motion carried.

### **Treasurer’s Report – Steve Egan**

The latest financials were made available at the meeting. Our expenses are less than our budget for the year – we really haven’t spent any money. Currently 272 paid members – usually 300 for another \$840 – will bring us close to projection. Proposal for 2024 budget is included in the last column. The only change made to the budget – donations were less this year, so the amount was lowered from \$13K to \$12K. Balance sheet \$87K of which \$74K in Money Market. Banking done with Citizens bank. We are considered a small business, so the CD rates (.01%) are less than the MM (.05%). Rick Fink – is it possible to do a 6 mo T bill? Would likely not be able to do it at a bank. Lorrie - credit union possibility? Tom Lyons didn’t think rates were any better. Paul is going to look and will get back with Steve. Brian Franz – Vanguard, Fidelity is paying more. Steve will investigate that. Rick mentioned that would be very good interest for us. Allen Farber – where do we stand with fireworks? \$6K is in the reserve. Donations were under target of \$5k so we need to be cognizant. Put out notice to the members as a reminder next year as we signed a 3-year contract. Paul Corr made a motion to accept, Chris Rohrs seconded. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Water Level** – Allen Farber – everything has worked out well. With earlier rain, opened dam to 18” then closed it down. Lake is up ½” today, Stewarts Landing is perfect. Communication with Roger Ackerman (President of Stewarts Landing Assoc) has been good. Rick has asked Allen to stay on during his term. Marcus thanked the team of Allen, Bill & Henry and explained their role to the three guests: everyday Bill and Henry measure the level and provide a spreadsheet of history. Canada Lake level can be good, but Stewarts Landing can suffer with lower levels as it takes time for the water to drain there. There is a great relationship with DEC. Henry sent pictures from the big gate and the leakage around boards and convinced DEC to shut the small gate and it has worked out VERY well. The leaks work to our advantage. Brian (DEC) is considering working on the large sills....Henry has suggested they wait on it. Fisheries are happy with where it is currently. Mary Jablonski noted that all the data from Henry & Bill is posted on the CLCA website.

**ECHO update** – Mark Moritz – Allen talked to Eben (printer) and it is in the mail today. There are 350 copies. The mailing list was late this year and Eben did a great job getting it out. Mark is very pleased with the look. Noted a printing issue that they

hope to rectify for next year. Digital ECHO should be moved to the website, so it is only open to members via a link sent. Brought to board if final product should be accessible to general public. Lorrie noted that phone numbers are there. Mark thought it should just stay with members. Allen noted Merryn felt strongly this way as well as it is for paying members. Lois made a motion to be made available to only paid members, seconded by Brian and Mark. Passed. Marcus thanked Mark and his wife for all the hard work on the ECHO and noted that it is the summertime “go to source for information” for members.

**Caroga Book** – Allen and Dick Loomis revised the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition and has now published. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition left off in 1998 and lots of text editing is being done. Working on 3rd edition and planning to have available for 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Caroga Museum in 2027. Used Dave Graves postcard collection. If anyone has photographs or any other information that should go into this edition, please see Allen who will scan and get everything back to you. This is a great way to get Town involved with this history. \$40/copy and available at museum and through the Town. Not at the Canada Lake Store due to cost for them to do so.

**Water quality** – Marcus reminded people that a lot of this information was sent out prior to the meeting. Our association participates in water quality testing with Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) – Byrne family collects samples, and ADK Lake Assessment Program, which James Long, along with Archer Newell are a part of. James has now gotten East and West Caroga Lake involved. There will be a more detailed report on our lake coming out soon. Protect the ADKs Association came out with an article on the browning of lakes – posed it as a long-term threat - changing due to global warming, road salt, acid rain, etc. Copies are available through Marcus. Mary got a note from John Byrnes will be sampling 8 times throughout the summer – will be doing more dissolved oxygen and temperature sampling if he can get the equipment from his employer. He and James Long sample Irving Pond. If you have a well, you can get a sample done by John. We have been collecting information and Archer Newell has been developing a map to plot out patterns for infiltration of salt into wells. East Caroga has higher levels of salt than West Caroga and Canada due to its close proximity to the highway. Browning is more prevalent but not sure why. SU is doing a study, which is in the beginning stages. Allen and James went out in May – clarity was much better. Marcus appreciates those that have volunteered to be on the workgroup committee.

**Boater Safety** – Brian Franz & Bob Baker (co-chairs). January 1, 2025, everyone has to have completed the NYS safety boating course - in person or online. Caroga Lake is sponsoring one on July 15 at the firehouse with a \$10 donation. Need to be able to produce a certificate or it is a ticketable offense. Link can be sent out to members for Caroga session and online opportunity. 8-to-10-hour mandated course. Ken Luttmann – daughter completed “I learn to boat”, served by New York State and it is time regulated.

Brian Franz made a motion to apply for a permit to install up to 3 navigational buoys around the lake. Seconded by Mary Jablonski. Discussion: There is a permit process.

Brian provided a picture of buoy. Brian would like to propose that we provide a permit for up to 3 buoys and allocate up to \$1000 for each. Mary seconded. Discussion: Steve noted that there is no money in budget for 2023 or 2024. Rick asked if the motion could be amended to include a 5 MPH sign on London Bridge. Also asked if money was allocated for hiring someone to put in and take out the buoy(s). It has a solar powered light that is flashing (15-30 per minute)....may stir up controversy. Reminded directors that it might be an issue with members around the lake. Positions would be entrance to Lily Lake, London Bridge by the channel before the bridge, and Point Breeze. Could phase them in but apply for all three. Mary – is it possible for the light to be constant? It is a red light. It is Coast Guard approved and serves as a reminder that you are not allowed to go any faster than 5 MPH 100 ft from shoreline – it is enforceable. Chris would like to start with one and learn from it. Dick Maider – buoys are geared for wake areas – need to be careful about marking obstacles...since there are so many around the lake (rocks around the island, entering into West Lake for example) we may open ourselves up for liability if we don't flag them all. Ken Luttmann asked if it is the state or DEC putting buoys out? The consensus is that it is the lake association's responsibility. Can get additional rules passed to make enforceable. (this sentence needs clarification per Allen – who is going to pass additional rules?) Using existing law of 5 MPH within 100 Ft., DEC posted 5 MPH signs at boat launch and Sawdust Creek. Amend motion to include 5 MPH sign on London Bridge. Cost is approximately \$792.12 plus anchor & chain – includes delivery. Rick asked if we should propose to membership? Lois said we represent the membership. Water safety comes up a lot – we should be proactive. The first one be at Lily Lake or Point Breeze and the sign on bridge with take care of London Bridge area. Would like safety to include fire pumps, buoys, safety courses, numbers for Encon, Sheriff, etc. Invite a speaker to come to our annual meeting. \$500 Reward placards will be printed and handed out. Budget 2024 for \$1000 for buoy. Sheriffs and Encon – provided 2 patrols last year. Will do so again this year.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Nominating Committee - Chris Rohrs** – will present slate at annual meeting with Rick Fink as President – need President Elect before then, Lorrie Mott as Secretary and Steve Egan as Treasurer. Three vacancies for directors are: Paul Corr, who will be replaced by his wife, Janice; Erin Beaudet who is resigning due to “summers too short, meetings too long” but will stay active with membership and is replaced by Kate Freeman; and Lois Miller retiring from multiple roles and replaced by Ken Luttmann. Lois has been significant to our organization and applause for her. Very happy to have these three great candidates joining us. Will end with 21 directors, which is our maximum.

Allen noted that the younger generation needs to be included as directors. There is a good body of young people committed to the lake so we need to offer these positions to them going forward. Marcus asked that we consider a 3 yr term for President as we seem to be running out of people. Provides better continuity with state and local officials. Chris noted that an extended term could be a great deterrent as well due to

the extensive work involved. Lorrie noted that volunteers are also aging out. How can we involve the younger group – any ideas? Many young people involved in CAC and Wheelerville trails and seem to enjoy being involved in different events. Lois makes a motion to accept report, Rick seconded. Approved.

## DEC

- **Junior Steward Program** – reaching out to other lake associations to see if children want to be involved. Colleen Ricciardi, who does the Town summer program is elated to do this. AWI educator will come to present a booklet for the children. Will explain the watershed and invasive species. There will be boats with species and a demonstration on how we wash and inspect them. Teaching kids that CLEAN DRAIN AND DRY is with us forever and hope they take their learning back to their parents. Need to get younger people involved.
- **Fire Tower Steward Program** – Marcus, Mary Jablonski and Nancy Fink are stewards – volunteers joining. There is a schedule online and volunteers spend the day at cabin and tower. They also report any damage to rail and facilities. If a flag is flying at top, steward is there to give stickers to kids. Would like to get stickers “I climbed Kane Mtn”. Should we consider 100-year anniversary patch. New patches were just printed but could possibly do it. Fulton County 5 has a card – 4 of the hikes are right here and one in Mayfield. Lois noted that Seniors in school have to do community service – maybe we could advertise in school. Lois makes a motion to buy stickers, Steve, approved.
- **ALAP testing Kit Request** – James Long noted that he would like to have more flexibility as they are sampling more areas. Currently he uses his own equipment and this extra would allow Archer Newell to complete sampling at the same time and eliminate the elongation. He trains other lake associations. \$400 requested. Allen made the motion to approve the purchase of the kit for \$400, Lois seconded. Approved.

**Welcoming Committee** – need to print more REWARD signs. The amount of \$500 stands. Will print more & give out at annual meeting. Will provide list of new members and also send email to invite them to the annual meeting. The \$500 was given out during Ed Fake’s presidency (2006) to a Pine Lake resident who provided information on break-ins.

## COMMITTEE UPDATES

**Committee reports** – are all online need to get report sent prior to meeting.

**Committee lists** – need to put the word out on this.

**Environment Ecology Committee** – Dave Graves – HWA found in Lake George and is at least 6 yrs old. The state has been treating chemically and biologically. Also found

in Rockwood State Forest only 10 miles south of us. Totally fatal to hemlocks. 80% of watershed at Lake George is hemlocks. 70% here at our lake. Need to make people aware to help us detect. Pictures on the CLCA website of what to look for – June is a great time.

**Loon Conservation** – put under the Environment Ecology where the funding is. Our lake has participated in the loon census for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. Jane Petrie and Rosemary Lee are very involved. Requested another place to deposit bait and sinkers. Store might be another option and Rosemary has spoken to Corey who approved. Lorrie – asked how to get people to leave these items – it seems that fishermen never have bait or anything to leave even though asked. ADK Center offers rafts (175) to put under nests with water level heightening.

**Fire pumps** – Rick reported all tested and running in May – all equipment checked and OK at all 5 locations. Need to replace roofs on 3 sheds – small amount of money. Needs a few volunteers to help.

Lois encouraged a demonstration at the fire pump. Do a fire drill at the annual meeting. This was done 4 years ago and had a huge attendance. Rick will follow through on this to make it an event.

### **Lake organization – Jon Vesey**

Winter Emergency had one incident. Dick followed up with Linda on the lawsuit on the channel but did not have any information. There is also no word on Stewarts Landing (Halloween flood 2019). No report from Maggie Newell. Merryn asked Allen to report on membership, which was covered by Steve in Treasurer's report. Kaelyn Byrnes has been handling mailings and will be going off to school. We should give recognition to her for her fantastic job. Marcus to send her a letter of thanks from the Association.

**Invasive Species** - Lorrie filled everyone in on invasives. AWI is now funding a steward at the boatwash from Thursday through Monday 7:30-4. The three town stewards are now filling in Tues & Wed from 7:30 – 7 pm and 4-7 pm shifts the other days. Still looking for volunteers from our lake to fill in the 5:30-7:30 am shifts through to Labor Day weekend. Noted that these are important times as boats are launch – some days up to 7 boats during this time. They are coming from many places with invasives...Mohawk River being one. Marcus noted that Lorrie and Randy are doing great jobs and Lorrie has attended different conferences to bring back important information. He mentioned about the Town cutting the funding for the invasive program and how the other surrounding Lake Associations wrote letters to support the funding. Lorrie spoke to Pecks Lake about invasives, and Marcus was invited to the West Caroga Lake Association meeting. We invited the other Lake Associations to our April Invasive committee meeting, and they were ecstatic to be included and really want to work in partnership with us. This gives us a larger voice. Lorrie noted how the Native Americans give thanks for EVERYTHING on the earth including invasives and how they are looking to use phragmites to be medicinal possibly for Lyme Disease. Also noted how invasives have spread just in a year.

**Fish stocking** - Tom Lyons – spring stocking 250 rainbow fish between 12-14 “put in Green Lake. Marcus noted how Caroga invites young people to help. Tom will follow up and will give notice. A second stocking will be in the fall. DEC did a trout stocking (1700 brown trout, lake trout) in spring off Rocky Point. Lots of ice fishing all around our lake.

**Lake activities**

- Boat Parade – new online judging available – one member of each household is eligible to vote. Allen would like Kristen to send him information so he can get the information out to the members.
- Flares – all set
- Fireworks – all set
- Water ski – same as last year hosted by Ward Halverson
- Ice cream extravaganza – all set
- Luncheon – info out next week
- Picnic – same as last year
- Youth Activities – meeting next week. Developing a planning committee.
- Lois offered Boater Safety rules booklet.

Lois Miller made the motion to adjourn at 10:47, Chris Rohrs seconded. All in favor!

**NEXT MEETING is August 20 at 8:30 am in the TOWN HALL.**