

MINUTES
CLCA Directors' Meeting
Saturday June 21, 2025
At 8:30 AM via Zoom and in person at the Caroga Town Hall

Attendees in person: Marcus Harazin, Rick Fink, Stephen Egan, Jon Vesey, Janice Corr, Allen Farber, Dick Maider, Mary Jablonski, Bob Baker, Ed Fake, Archer Newell, Henry Eifert, Brian Franz, Tom Lyons, Lois Miller (guest)

Absent: Merryn Byrnes, Chris Rohrs, Ken Luttmann

Zoom: Lorrie Mott, Randy Fredlund, Jackie (Fake) Gilman (guest)

Rick Fink, President, called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM. Quorum was established with 15 members in attendance. The meeting was recorded via recorder.

President's Remarks – Rick Fink

Rick thanked everyone for volunteering. Many extra events are going on this year and we all need to step up and get others involved. Canada Lake is registered as a loon friendly lake. Rick and Marcus met with DEC about island, Kane Mtn & campsites. They have allowed us to enter the rangers cabin. We hope to clean up (not approved yet). We hope to open the cabin in the future (not approved yet). Obtained the reroute map of the Kane Mtn path and will put on our website.

Secretary's Report – Lorrie Mott - Corrections noted by Allen and Rick – Podskoch was misspelled, Tim was a past president and longtime board member. Allen made motion to accept minutes as corrected, Dick Maider seconded. Motion passed. Motion to table minutes made by Mary Jablonski and seconded by Chris Rohrs. All in favor motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan – we are at 326 members – more than last year. Very solid financial position. Chris asked about Other Income assuming where directory

OLD BUSINESS

Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department has provided a "rescue boat" and we have donated \$3100 to "outfit" this boat. It is in the water & operational with some equipment but not a fire pump yet.

DEC – volunteer service agreement. Need application for all volunteers at boat launch and Kane Mt to protect for any liability. Marcus can provide to any volunteers.

Insurance riders have been established. All events including luncheon need to be covered because of alcohol being served. \$130/event. Trying to establish a long-term relationship for credibility.

Bylaw change on quorum – at annual meeting each year we struggle to get a quorum. This year it was made by 1. Should we change the bylaws from 10% membership exclusive of directors and officers to include them? First proposal – delete phrase “who are not directors”. 2nd proposal – add sentence where directors may vote if no quorum is attained (means ALL directors get to vote). 3rd proposal – a director may vote if someone from his/her household is not present when no quorum. It is defined that a household is one vote. Marcus said we need to have clarity where the board can conduct business for the members to approve. Idea of having as much inclusion of the households is good but need to come up with a member for each. Board members are usually in attendance, but they may be the only one attending from the household. How many households since there are 300 members, but not that many households? We should change to 10% of households. There are multiple members that have multiple properties and multiple families (members) in one household. Incorporate zoom attendees in the bylaws for attendees. Who would be the voting member on the proxy. Dick would have to read the bylaws from cover to cover to be sure that this is not missing anywhere else. Members vs Households. Members should be tied to one address. Need to clean this up as well. Voted that #3 would be the best solution putting emphasis on members first. Motion to table to August made by Brian Franz and seconded by Jon Vesey. Motion passed. Dick will look into wording for above & video conference language. Randy Fredlund suggested a a position paper...pluses and minuses regarding directors vs. households vs. members for voting? Marcus and Dick will help, will discuss at next Directors meeting in August.

Lake Luncheon – Pine Lake no longer available, Pleasant Lake not large enough, Nick Stoner not interested, Shermans gave us a date around their events – July 22.

Directory – at printers – Allan thanked Cassie, Merryn & Chris saying it is spectacular. Would like recognition given to Cassie for her work. Allen would like to make a motion for this recognition for \$250. Dick Maider seconded. All in favor. Motion passed. Digital copy will follow the mailing. We need to find the next generation to take this process over. Cassie and Chris will not be available – get recommendations from them.

100-year celebration of construction of Kane Mtn tower: Passed around copies of trifold with history & trail map and postcard. Cards with QR code will take you to Caroga Museum’s website with list of events. Work that museum has done is outstanding and panels with history will be on display in August. Plan is to put them in the cabin once it is restored. Thousands of visitors climb this mountain. Activities include time with the Youth program with Smokey Bear, presentation at Shermans with Marty Podscotch, ice cream social on Sunday at museum to name a few. Postcards will be stamped as keepsakes. There will be a shuttle on Saturday & Sunday for climbers. Sale of patches helped to print T-shirts which most have sold. Proceeds of this and postcard sales will go to restoring the cabin. Allen, on behalf of the museum, thanked the CLCA who funded the production of the panels. Town & businesses have not been involved as we had hoped. Fire towers are coming back. PA and some western states are re-instituting the fire towers. Marcus suggested we give a donation to the Firetower Lookout Association. We will work with them to fund a plaque to mount it on the tower so it can’t be vandalized. The circular map table

will be replaced in the tower. Marchus made the motion that we donate \$200 to this association. ??? seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Allen also mentioned that it is the 100th anniversary of the golf course and August 14 will be a day of free golf to honor the donation of the course to the town in 1925.

Buoy ordinance – Concern from boaters coming to close to the shore – particularly on Point Breeze. Option A: Needed to get a permit, draw up an ordinance from the town and a public meeting. Option B: A private individual can place a buoy in front of their camp – we can loan them the buoy without having to go through the permit process. DEC has put up 5MPH signs at the boat launch because it is a state boat launch and they are effective. State law is 100 ft from shore requires 5 MPH but it isn't easily enforceable. Will do this on a trial basis and see how it goes. Option A requires a lot of time.

Communication Gear for Boat Launch – town stewards have no access to communication at the West Lake Boat launch. There have been some instances of confrontations of not wanting to adhere to regulations & putting staff at risk. It could require medical or law enforcement. John Olm and Marcus have looked into Xspot and Garmin, what is being used at ADK Lodge. Easy ability to text. Phones using satellites are very expensive. Possibly get a cheaper rate through the town. We have individuals that have donated through this. Phone access reaches Dolgeville Point underwater but we are not able to get the same access or a pole installed.

Waterski Clinic Insurance Options – Should CLCA be sponsoring this or left with a private party since people are coming from other areas. Ed did it for multiple years with no insurance and no injuries, but that is not a viable option now. Jacqueline Fake Gilman (Ed's daughter) has done all the research on this. Looked into WaterSki club through USA Waterski. One person in the club must be an annual member, and obtain a USA Waterski trained driver and coordinator. Also need trained spotters. The person taking this on would have to be a member, go to training and obtain \$500 bodily injury per person and \$500,000 in property damage and name USA Waterski on the policy. A date would be set for the "club practice" (ski clinic). Each participant would request membership through the website. Club fee is \$125, sanctioning fee \$50 which allows you to run a clinic every year. Member is \$90/yr, guest is \$10 per day pass. Next question is – does someone want to take this on. Club would be independent of CLCA. Ed does not want to see our waterski clinic die or the sport itself. At the highlight of the clinic, people were coming from all lakes in the area and so many were taught. If you want youth involved, someone should take the chance. Jackie reiterated that you would need a trained driver per boat....there are a lot of youth that like to drive....encourage them to get involved and trained to drive safely. People coming in from the outside being a problem would be eliminated because they have to sign up for the guest pass. She is still reading on it and has a great connection with USA Waterski that wants to keep this going for us. Allen is worried if we have any part in supporting this, we would be liable. Jackie said it would be separate from the CLCA. We could donate to it but not cover all the expenses. She suggested donating the annual and sanctioning fee -

\$175. It would be relatively inexpensive to start, and the event would start small as well with one boat. All were in agreement with this strategy.

Water Quality – (ALAP) Adirondack Lake Association Program provided their report. Marcus provided copies. The reports did not show a lot of changes from last year to this year. Lakes Management Committee meets twice a year, and they also provided their reports (Caroga Lakes). Changes in water appearance. Golf course was using fertilizer which impacted feeds into our lakes. Canada Lake looks good. Caroga Lakes have road salt issues more than we do. Algae blooms have been sighted there as well. North of us, many wells have been closed due to road salt infiltration. There are wells here that salt has also been found in. Jon mentioned the amount of sand that is present on Kasson Dr. in the spring and not knowing if it has salt in it to determine how to dispose of it. Working with town & state to reduce by using other methods. Marcus will send the links for the reports to Allen to update the website.

COMMITTEE UPDATES – posted online

Lake Management - Mary Jablonski -

Ecology – Marcus mentioned that Kate was trying to get a speaker on terrestrial invasives since we have more and more in our area (ex: Japanese Knotweed). Also, what to plant and not to plant. Allan sent out a letter for lake members to come together and talk about it – about 20 showed. Gave ideas of native species to plant and provided websites about invasives and how to identify.

Fire safety – pumps have been run and are in working order.

Fish Stocking – completed in spring. Information in ECHO.

Invasive Species – Allen and Lorrie have sent out many requests for volunteers on Saturday mornings & some evening shifts. Five people have stepped up to cover six mornings for the entire summer. Other shifts still needed to be covered. Randy reported that there just aren't enough people to cover the lake for inspections.

Lake Safety – all need certificate that they have passed the boater safety course – please have it on the boat with you. Driver's license can have an anchor on it to signify. This year will be warnings – next time will be a ticket. Reminders have been sent to our members multiple times.

Water Level – we are in good shape with a great system in place.

Highway Cleanup – one completed in Spring and another will be scheduled in July.

Island – looks good – lots of vegetation.

Lake Activities – Ken Luttmann – report is online. Marcus would like to see a table in front of the store to create awareness of our lake association and activities. When we did it in the past, there was a lot of interaction

Lake organization – Jon Vesey

Chris Rohrs thanks Cassandra Lyons, & Nick Gale, who did the original watercolor. Directory going out in July.

Membership – 306 paid.

Nominating – all directors will stand for re-election. Need to present slate to Directors for approval. Motion made by Jon to accept slate, Ed seconded. All approved. Motion carried.

Janice mentioned that it is great people are running again, but we should open this up to the membership to bring in younger members. Many discussions have been made and it is listed in the ECHO. If someone leaves the board, then it would trigger a blast looking for others. Rick solicited for new people to be involved in his president's letter & in the ECHO. Need to look at skills: financial, graphic design, etc. – possibly a survey to see who has. Marchus mentioned that all lake associations are having the same issue. A cover letter was sent out to all town residents informing us about the invasives species and how to join the lake associations. Town split the cost with the lake associations for this mailing. Our organization is very transparent

Phishing – Jon received a very sophisticated email asking for financial monies.

Lawsuit – Rick reached out to Brad Hunt, but no response.

Allen made a motion to adjourn at 10:42, ?? seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting August 24, 2025 at 8:30 am at Town Hall.