

CLCA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 7 pm

Via Zoom and in person at Town of Caroga Firehouse

President Marcus Harazin called meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

President's Remarks – Marcus Harazin:

Thanked everyone for coming. Counted for a quorum – 1 vote per camp, not counting directors - 33 in the room, 3 on zoom. Agenda with calendar of events, minutes of 2022 annual meeting, & treasurer's reports are available on table in the back. Also a Waiver for volunteers who are required to sign DEC volunteer application which covers for liability. Lake Effect Café awards are available for volunteers. Luncheon ticket sales are out in front. Gave a few updates (full report is available online). Marcus mentioned how we work closely with other lake associations to get a bigger voice and we are encouraging those groups to get involved with Lake Management Committee (Town). West Caroga Lake Association invited Marcus to speak to them in regard to water quality. John Byrnes has been doing salinity tests for those concerned about their well water. He plots the data with the infiltration of road salt in the wells. Caroga Lakes near the highway has very high number. DEC has an agreement with us for the boat launch, Kane Mountain steward program, & Nick Stoner Island. The stewards at Kane Mtn have met people from Dubai and England. 1200 visitors already. The stewards & their education of climbers helps us to keep the trail clean. As this is his last meeting to preside over, he thanked all the volunteers. We need to let our neighbors know about all our work & volunteering – the only way this will continue. Talk it up, get involved!

Secretary's Report - Lorrie Mott:

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

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan:

Posted on our website. Wound up the year with 305 members. Donations \$500 less than we budgeted. YTD 294 members. \$1000 behind budgeted for donations. Roughly behind \$1600 in revenue. Not many expenses yet as they mainly occur during the summer. Proposed budget is the same as last year, but with one change – added \$1000 for water safety – buoys to be implemented to slow people down around the shoreline.

Lois Miller made a motion to approve the 2024 budget and financial reports, Brian Franz seconded. All in favor - passed.

Nominating Committee Report – Chris Rohrs

Three of our directors are rotating off the board: Paul Corr, did about 10 yrs as treasurer and a phenomenal job. Erin Beaudet will rotate off but stay involved with membership work. Lois Miller has

been involved with this organization for about 40 years and has done everything....long time director, secretary and the face and spirit of the organization by welcoming newcomers to the lake.

Five directors are up for election of 3 yr term: Bob Baker, Rick Fink, Lorraine Mott, Henry Eiffert, Merryn Byrnes. Janice Corr, Kate Freeman(filling out the two years of Lois's term) and Ken Lutman will run as three new and enthusiastic directors. Officers run one year at a time; directors run 3 year term. Officers: Rick Fink as President, Steve Egan as Treasurer, Lorraine Mott as secretary. Paul thanked everyone and proposed this slate.

Lois Miller makes motion to accept slate as proposed, Mary Jablonski seconded. All in favor – passed.

Lois was called up front to accept a gift basket from Marcus as a token of our appreciation. Basket was made by Colleen Mosenthin and full of “cheer” and a gift certificate to Union Hall.

Guest speaker – Richard Giardino, Fulton County Sheriff

Introduced by Brian Franz. He was a judge, a DA, a volunteer firefighter, teacher at FMCC, and a former resident of Sand Point.

Marcus mentioned that Brian and Bob Baker, as co-chairs of the Safety Committee, have been working to get the word out about boater safety. Boat traffic has increased immensely.

Sheriff Giardino mentioned about how much fun he had at our lake (back when Nixon was president) and also noted how much has changed. Septic systems – talked to the other lake associations to work for aid about sewer and septic systems. Old septic tanks are still an issue. About 12-15 years ago there was a big push but there are a lot of federal funds available. Next year is an election year and a good time to work with local officials and legislators – suggests we work with other lake associations to get grants for septic, invasives, etc..

His staff is down 50%. They handle dispatch for all the emergencies – over 200,000 a year. In the past was staffed with 5 people on a shift - starting salary at \$48,000. Other agencies - \$66,000. Need to have 3 cars on the road to cover 500 square miles, which leaves 2 to patrol all the lakes in the county. Jet skis on the lakes for patrol –Once they get out there – people then talk. Let us know – if you see something say something. They will send someone. If they have a car or boat or jet skis, they will come out. Will try and make a presence. Operation Sober Boater (sometimes give out koozies – LOL) but provided us with free key chains. Sheriffs do provide a service in the winter – burglaries. They will check your property if you are gone – just call to get on the list if able to get down your road, they will check the property.

Nancy Fink – has crime increased? Burglaries and trespasses are higher, driven by drugs, mental health, and domestic violence issues. Getting better at training for the latter two. They visit St. Mary's 3-5 times/day for mental health drop offs (40% increase). Suggests the ring, cameras, solar trail cameras. Jane - How can boater safety laws be enforced – jet skis every weekend are breaking boater safety rules near Dolgeville Point. Call him personally – come and patrol between 12-6 pm on Saturday and Sunday on a nice day. **CALL THE SHERIFF** and ask to speak directly with him – you need someone on the lake. **518-736-2100 24 hours**. If they

are underage, can only “slow them down”. If jet ski operators 14 yrs and older if they don’t have a certificate – is there a consequence if they don’t? Was unable to answer this but will look into it. There is a BWI if drunk on the boat – can only suspend your registration and license to operate a boat. Have written tickets to parents who allow their kids to do the wrong things – endangering the welfare of a child. Another rule breaker - Jet ski pulling tuber without a spotter. Get registration number – call sheriff. Jim - Do you work in conjunction with DEC – yes – we share boats and work together. Will send request to State troopers, DEC and Sheriff. Ended with a story.

Marcus followed up with a tip sheet of emergency phone numbers, etc. and reward sheet for all camps to post in their window.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: COMMITTEE REPORTS – all available on website.

Updates on Lake activities:

Flares went well, fireworks will be scheduled again, boat parade was very successful. Picnic is postponed to Sunday July 23. Luncheon is July 19 at Pine Lake. Youth activity is a Luau on the 22nd.

Update on water quality – participate in citizens lake assessment program - Adirondack lake assessment. ALAP report – will convene a group to see how we are doing. Reports showed pretty good quality compared to most lakes. Pine and Stoner are a little better. Many are concerned about browning of lake.

Invasive species - Randy – had the pleasure of telling all the Stewards Landing people about AIS. Soliciting that those will be helping – only half returning so still need more. They are quality control only – the stewards are the people that are helping prevent the AIS from getting into our lake. Lorrie spoke about those volunteers that have taken an entire day for the summer but there are still MANY open slots and we need help due to the increased boat traffic and helping to prevent the onset of AIS. Many people are not honest and say they are Clean, Drain & Dry. We have to be vigilant to protect our lake. Training is available. Easy job – early morning is very peaceful.

Junior Stewards – we will reach out to the younger people. APIPP and AWI came out with a Jr Steward program. Will have a field educator from Paul Smiths to come to educate our community youth in the summer program. Will demonstrate how to clean the boats and what to look for. We printed the booklets for the kids. Bringing milfoil so the kids see it. Program was run up in Lake Champlain with a grant, but we are the only ones doing in the ADK at the time – hoping it spreads.

Street Lights – Rick Fink – Town removed and replaced with LED and eliminated almost half. The street light on Point Breeze road acts as a beacon for Dolgeville Point residents to find their docks at night, as well as snowmobilers. Defined it as a beacon and got it approved....but it was put back to an LED. Marcus & Rick met with Scott Horton to get it changed back to a beacon. They agreed to follow up with Scott on this.

Will need to follow up with Town to put up buoys. Homeowners can put a buoy out up to 100ft of their shoreline but it is not encouraged. Need to apply and have it registered asking for up to 3 buoys. Will test with one for the first year. Where are you proposing – Rick said Point Breeze due to swimming and boats cutting corners. Sawdust creek – DEC put up 5 MPH signs. There will be a hearing on it – Town & County with opportunity for public input. Rule is 5 mph within 100 ft. of shore. Can 5 mph signs be put on buoys. Lily Lake is another area where people are going very fast and there are swimmers there as well. This is also an area that we are looking at. The London Bridge – there is a sign painted there which has been helpful. It's the guests on the lake that are unaware of this so be sure to inform if you see them. Some lakes are passing laws (Loon Lake, Lake George) that limit boat but how to enforce. Waves are very large for wakeboard boats – asking them to watch the highwater which leads to dock damage and erosion. The buoys will have 5 MPH speed limit on them. They have to be anchored – taken in and out, maintained. Money in budget to do this.

Allen Farber – Dick Loomis and Allen did a digital version and now have hard copies - \$40 each with money going to the museum. They are beginning the 3rd edition available for the 50th anniversary of the museum in 2027. If you have any photos, etc. – would like to scan images. If you want to contribute or be involved, contact Allen. Difference from original is mostly color. There is a need for updates – corrections – when first done was 50 years ago.

Echo – extra copies are available for \$10. Allen and Mark Moritz have put it in a digital version which is available to only members.

Audrey – July 27 will have a wonderful program at the Caroga Historical Museum about Barbara McMartin. Nancy Long (her daughter) will be speaking. Also, the official opening of the workshop.

NEW BUSINESS:

Development on the lake: There is a process you go through – it is through the town. Our goal as this association is to protect our lake (safety, water and environment are #1). We are not experts on the rules...or the enforcers of land use. We encourage members and the town and state that the rules are followed for good lake stewardship but need also to remind them to deal with Town of Caroga. We are in the Adirondack Park – if the APA approves the plan, then the town enforces. If people apply for variances, go through the zoning board, people can then speak up. If any questions, contact Marcus.

As Marcus's last official duty – he asked for a motion to adjourn. Rick thanked Marcus for all his hard work and hopes he can fill his shoes. Lois made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Audrey Smith. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.