

CLCA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 7 pm

Via Zoom and in person at Town of Caroga Firehouse

President Rick Fink called meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

President's Remarks – Rick Fink:

Rick thanked everyone for coming. Counted for a quorum – 1 vote per camp, not counting directors - 30 in the room, 7 on zoom. Thanked everyone that volunteered for the organization. Special thank you to Mark Moritz, Mike Manning – great job on ECHO and fireworks, respectively. If you appreciate the fireworks show – keep the donations coming. Also thanked Allen Farber for his great communication. Noted the busy winter as we petitioned the town to stock fish in the lake and received \$1000 for fish stocking from the Town of Caroga. Marcus applied for 3 yr \$100,000 Grant to staff the stewards and fight invasive species. Steve and Rick went to the bank to get great CD rates which generate about \$2700/yr in interest. Grant received from the ADK Grant Trust Fund in memory of JD Widdemer and thanked the family. Signed a 5-yr volunteer stewardship agreement with DEC – covers island, Kane Mtn and AIS – gets liability coverage.

Secretary's Report - Lorrie Mott:

The minutes from last year's meeting were presented. One change was sent in – spelling of Sheriff's name. Motion by Linda Smith to accept minutes as corrected, second by Dick Maider. All approved. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan:

Financials emailed to everyone. 272 members. Last year ended with 320. We are a few thousand over in donations from budgeted. \$14,000 in profit. Most expenses come in the second half of the summer. Budget included – same revenue, costs going up but not a lot impacted by inflation. Motion by Audrey Smith to accept treasurer's report, seconded by Jon Vesey. All approved. Motion carried.

Fire department

JD presented signs – this is a way that we can find you for emergency. Ambulance, fire department, police look for this particular sign. Sign is \$19. Fire Department installs for you. Medical emergencies – 9 EMTs here in Caroga. Minutes count. Contact Fire Department or Linda Gilbert also takes orders. After the meeting, there will be a signup sheet. CPR class – if there is interest, please sign up – if there is enough, we will put out a date. How do you work fire extinguishers? Fire Department can educate. Northville and Johnstown can refill the extinguishers. If signs have been damaged, contact Linda Gilbert. Since cell phones don't work all that well, the auxiliary paid for a call box on the front of the fire department – it will

connect you to 911. Chicken BBQ on August 10 - \$16 is a fundraiser for fire department. Allen Peck mentioned it is always good to have a garden hose hooked up – one calls 911, then use your garden hose. Don't try to put it out by yourself....always call 911 first!

CAC Announcement – Nancy Purcell

She started volunteering by helping with meals, then took in 3 musicians for housing, then on the board and now volunteer coordinator. Looking for volunteers – a variety of ways to help. 150 musicians are coming this year who need 2 meals a day, also crowd control, merchandise sales, housing, gardening, selling tickets. Asking for just one thing to help others not burn out. The musicians keep it growing and are so appreciative of all that the volunteers do. There is a QR code to help you fill out a form and has schedules for us to take. Go to the website for more information (www.carogaarts.org). Getting to know the musicians is an incredible joy.

Guest Speaker – Walter Hogan – Invasive Species Discussion

History of Caroga Lake – 1988 they began to experience major issue of milfoil in E Caroga Lake – very shallow – average depth of 20 ft where milfoil loves to grow – doesn't grow past 12-15 ft where it's too dark. West Caroga is 30 ft. Applied for a grant in 1990 for DASH – diver assisted suction harvesting. \$50,000. Divers pull out milfoil by its roots – sucks up to the boat and offload it to the Town where stumps and trees. Last year it was \$100,000 budget for two lakes....8 divers, 2 tenders (work on top of the boat). This was becoming a major expense. Decided to look at something else – looked at the herbicide. Lake George had a lawsuit regarding this.

Applied for grant \$50,000 for a pilot program. Took the high-density areas to apply ProcellaCOR – West Caroga on north shore and East Caroga at state campsite, marina, and bay outside of marina that goes to the outlet of the lake. DEC and APA encouraged doing Avery Point as well. Permits were submitted and June 17 it was applied – put in a dilution of 8 parts per billion. Goes after the growth cells ONLY. No adverse effects to swimming, drinking or any natural species. Lily pads may turn brown but come back quickly. He recently was thanked by a lake resident since he is now able to swim in front of his camp. It's been very successful. It browns the milfoil, then it dies and lays on the bottom and decomposes. On day one it was down to 3-4 pts per billion. On day 4 less than 1 pt was detected. It is put in very scientifically from the back of the boat. Feels it will become the way to kill milfoil. 10 lakes in ADK using it.

Has applied for a federal grant to do both lakes completely. Will continue to use the DASH system on an isolated event with one diver, one driver to monitor. It will come back at some point but be able to mitigate much easier. Briane Green (Director of AIS) of APIPP is testing how to use a DNA sample, they will be able to do detection just by taking water samples. Canada Lake is spared at this point. Marcus is right out in front for prevention. Peck Lake has variable leaf milfoil. Caroga Marina is wide open to launch – no stewards on their lake. Hopes

that regulations get tougher for the boat washing. He sees the printoff of paper signed by boater that they have washed is a very weak solution. Most people don't wash.

Jim Contino questioned if treatment is every year. No – Lake Minerva was treated five years ago. Year 1 no plants, Year 2- 1 plant, year 3 – 12 plants....now its easier to pick out much more controlled just like your garden. Cost of pilot program treated 30 acres for \$50,000. Estimate to do both lakes completely - \$280,000. Marcus – mentioned that there was a full lake assessment done and plotted out – shows you native plants vs invasives. On website. Walter brought a sample – about 10ft worth. Encouraged people to look at it. It tangles your motor and more...prevention is key. Anyone can be a steward....call Marcus if you see anything. Marcus mentioned we have surveyors (lake protectors) that are looking for this. It's very critical to continue to look for it. Anita Long – very impressed at how well you have done the job at managing teamwork, the divers, the APA, the lake managers, prevention people. He asked naysayers to bring facts as to why not do this. Openness is very important – need to listen to everyone and respect them. Need to understand where they come from.

Rick noted that this was to show the contrast between our two lakes – the cost and time that they have been dealing with it. Our prevention is key and we are lucky to have so many volunteers spending their own time keeping our lake clean. Very much appreciated.

Invasive Species – Lorrie Mott

Asked the volunteers who volunteer at the boat launch. Noted only three hands that went up.... we need more than that. Pecks Lake offered training from APIPP where Lorrie and three others from our lake attended. What impacted her the most was the spiny water flea, which is basically a speck of dust but wreaks havoc on the ecosystem of a lake. It is at Pecks, Piseco and Sacandaga lakes, to name a few, and can easily be spread by people not washing their watercraft. People launch at all hours many do not believe the risks of not washing their boats. We need more volunteers – early morning and later afternoons. Training is available. Peck has variable leaf milfoil that is not mediated by the herbicide so they are fighting it. We don't want to do that. People don't bring the paper, don't feel they need to be washed, don't think they spread it. We try very hard to educate people. Each year the list of lakes with invasives grows. Please consider helping to keep our lake clean!

Nominating Committee Report – Chris Rohrs

Seven directors whose terms are expiring tonight – six are standing for reelection – Allen, Brian, Marcus, Tom, Mark, Chris. Dave Graves is retiring after being a director for 10 years. A smart thoughtful, and true environmentalist who will be missed. Taking David's place is Archer Newell – very active in invasives and she brings the next generation in. Rick, Steve, and Lorrie will stand for reelection for new one-year terms. President elect is still open. Thanks to all who have served. Proposed slate – all approved.

2025 Directory - Chris Rohrs— Cassie Lyons is his partner while Chris sells the ads. The process has begun – they are wide open to ideas. If there is something that you think should be in there, let Chris know. Articles will be: 100th anniversary of Kane Mt, and golf course, Wheelerville trails and CAC. If you know of advertisers that you think should be involved....ads range from \$75 to \$200 and it's a five-year publication with 500 are distributed. Jana Dykeman really appreciated the link to the directory online but it's only alphabetical. Asked if it could be done by address. Merryn would have to answer. The new one will be out in June 2025.

Insurance/Waterski Clinic - Rick Fink – in the fall of 2019 we had a 100 year rainstorm causing flooding on lake and downstream in Dolgeville causing a lot of damage with the loss of 14 homes. People in Dolgeville sued us – lawsuit is still going on. Due to this our liability insurance was cancelled. Rick & others worked through the winter to secure insurance and were unsuccessful. Wouldn't write us because of high-risk events we held, one being the waterski clinic. In June, we secured insurance at a similar cost, but the board postponed the waterski clinic until we can find adequate insurance to protect our members. Will work through American Waterski Association to get a one-day clinic if cost effective.

Litigation – settlement talks which involves FEMA grants to buy houses, tear down and make a park. What is still open is the personal property included in the 18 houses affected. The judicial conference was in June and gave lawyers 30 days to come up with issues. We do not expect any monetary liability as to date everything has been covered by our prior insurance company. DEC and National Grid are co-defendants with CLCA.

2025 100-year Fire Tower Celebration – Marcuse Harazin

We are working with the NY Forest Fire Lookout Tower Association to plan the 100-year celebration. We would like to celebrate in the community. Several stewards there – recruiting more for this celebration. Marty Poscotch will have other public officials. Planning a Jr program with the youth of Caroga in August. There will be opportunities to get involved. Patches and stickers – 100th anniversary commemorative patch. Hope to get some of the observers to come and talk about their experiences. Looking for pictures, memories, mementos.

ByLaws change – Dick Maider

Discussion at the Director's Meeting to extend the term of President from 2 years to 3 years. Current Bylaws allows President will serve no longer than 2 years.....proposed change is to make the 2 a 3 at the discretion of the President. It's hard to find people to serve. You build relationships and its hard to start over. This would give continuity to our association and the relationships. Three years is a modest increase as you just learn what you are doing....and then have to pass it on to the next person. Dick Maider made the motion that Article 5, Section D, 4th line t be amended that the president will serve no longer than 3 consecutive one-year terms. Chris Rohrs seconded. All approved.

Lake luncheon – tickets are on sale outside after the meeting. We have music by the CAC this year. We had 61 in attendance last year. Mary and Ann will be at the Cananda Lake Store from 9:30-11:30 selling tickets. The following weekend on Saturday – same time and place

Water quality issues - **Marcus Harazin**. Our association participates in CSLAP and ALAP. They reinforce the water quality testing. Results are posted on the website. CSLAP is on the DEC website. Data looked very similar to 2022. Acidity remains very neutral. Conductance, which is an indicator of road salt is one that we are keeping an eye on. State road salt task force report came out. Our lake is doing very well. ALAP testing expanding to include Green Lake and Irving Pond. Pine Lake, Stoner, and Pleasant Lake are less impacted by road salt. E Caroga is highly impacted. We provided testing for well water – saw a number of wells contaminated – anything down from the state highway. Testing is still available if anyone is interested. John Byrnes has plotted the data. Hamilton County provided suggestions to our town. Hopefully the town can apply for a grant to better handle their salt pile. Road safety and salting policy was implemented on what they would do to control snow and ice in the area – how much salt they will put on the road. Different types of plows (like a squeegee) that can be used. There are periodic assessments done for what's in our lakes – time to do one again maybe through the use of the funds collected through our member's donations.

Other

The Widdemer family allowed the CLCA to be beneficiaries of funds donated in memory of JD Widdemer. Feel that funds can best be used to provide a satellite phone or some other communication tool that would allow the steward at the Boat Launch to be able to communicate directly with a ranger or 911. Working with DEC and ADK Mountain Club.

Question from zoom member – are there any information for the signs – need to put them on the dock or the shoreline by the dock so they are visible by the lake. There is 911 information (sign) at the (Dolgeville Point) boathouse to bring people to the fire department

CONTINUING BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Highlights only (reports available on website)

Jon Vesey – Jon, Audrey Smith and Kate Graves are taking over the new members welcome.

Mary Jablonski– with **environment ecology**. Emerald ash borer is on the lake – contact Paul Corr as he knows how to treat it. Continue to check your hemlock trees for any infestation of hemlock wooly adelgid. Three fish stockings in spring. **Invasive species** – Randy Fredlund has put out a good message of how easy it is to become a lake inspector. Need full coverage of our lake and more volunteers. **Loon conservation** – Rosemary Lee– ADK Center for Loon

Conservation has provided a census. We participate. Program to certify a Loon Friendly Lake. When a loon is injured on the lake, they will assist us, they will band our loons. There is training online. Educating people is very important – get information to renters – speeding boats, distance to stay away from a loon. Lead sinkers are deadly to loons. **Lake Safety** – there was a sheriff patrol boat on the lake today. Law is changed that everyone needs to have physical proof that they are certified to drive a boat. Two-day course here at the firehouse July 23,24. Website to sign up – 22 slots available. Rick has spoken with the sheriff and has encouraged him to continue to provide coverage – same with DEC. For any issues, get their boat numbers, snap a picture, video and provide to the sheriff. Try not to confront people.

Adopt a Highway pickup – Bob Baker – Meet July 18 at 9 am at the Canada Lake Store, July 19 is rain date. This is an ongoing process. We clean it, come back to pick up the bags and find more trash thrown.

Picnic – 12-3 pm because the gala is the same day. Chicken thighs, hot dogs, pulled pork, drinks – most of the food provided by the CLCA – if you want to bring a side dish or dessert. Carpool if you can.

Water Level – Henry Eifert and Bill Fielding – been fortunate this year to keep the lake level at a consistent level. Good relationship with DEC for the dam.

Fire Pump demonstration – July 21 at 10 am at Long Boathouse – Point Breeze

Ken Luttmann – thanked the Franz's for a very successful boat parade and party. CLCA annual picnic at July 20 at Dykemans, Luncheon on the 24th. Ice cream extravaganza on Kasson Drive – Bates' camp. Youth event is a luau on August 3 but has been changed.

Old business – none

New business - none

Karen Memmett made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Dick Maider. Meeting ended at 8:28 pm