

CLCA Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, July 12, 2025, at 7 pm

Via Zoom and in person at Town of Caroga Firehouse

President Rick Fink called meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

President's Remarks – Rick Fink:

28 households in the room, 4 on zoom. Quorum established at 32 households in attendance. Rick thanked all volunteers and directors stating they are all vital to what we do as an organization. Please encourage younger people – get kids, grandkids involved as they will be taking over someday.

Lots going on this season – 100-year celebration of Kane Mt. Thanks to Mark Moritz for an excellent job on the ECHO. Announced the first copy of the directory – on the way to you.

Secretary's Report - Lorrie Mott:

The minutes from last year's meeting were presented online. No changes were received. Audrey Smith made motion, Dick Maider seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan:

Great financial position. Ahead \$5000 in revenue – mostly from kind donations from people in memory of those that have passed on. Members very generous with the fire boat. \$100k in the bank. Budget is flat to last year's but seeing some inflation like PO Box going from \$60-72. Chris Rohrs collected 100% of the cost of the directory in ads. Correction on annual luncheon line should be \$400 for next year. Report is online. Motion made by Ed Fake to accept report with proposed budget, seconded by Ken Luttmann. Motion carried.

Guest speaker – Brian McIntosh – Fire Rescue Boat.

Brian has been a volunteer for 42 years and currently the treasurer. Credited John Delesky on getting the boat on Canada Lake. Many rescues on Dolgeville Point, West Lake needing ambulance and fire. The Department felt it was necessary to have something ready to go immediately. Ladies Auxiliary donated \$5000 that paid for the boat. Purchased a few things to keep the boat going (life preservers, station pump \$2200). Purchased a used pump (\$15k). Trying to do this boat with all donations. Been several years that we have been working toward this. NEEDS: a David Crane that will help lift someone on to the boat for \$1300; ramp from a boat to the shore so they don't need to step over the water, hoses, nozzles; trailer for boat in case they need to go to other lakes; folding ladder (\$600). \$13K into boat so far. Located at the Point Breeze boathouse (at end). There is no security so if you see something say something. Very important to have your garden hoses connected. Maps & directory on boat but encouraged that we have one of the 911 numbers for our docks. CLCA put a donation

section on the membership letter and generated \$3100. Will do again next year. Steve Egan read a letter from the Caroga Lake Fire Department thanking us for our yearly donation as well as the fireboat donations. This covers ALL camps – even if they have road access. John Deragon asked if there is a list of published parts needed. Brian will put one together.

Fire District - Needed to buy a firetruck with savings of \$350k, which turned to \$460k truck during covid. Turnout gear went up 25% - cloth is made overseas. Felt switching to a Fire District would be more beneficial – currently a Fire Protection District – Town of Caroga pays for protection. This helps them to get things faster. A Fire District has a fire commissioner and a board in place – brings more say to the taxpayers, who can run for office. As property values go up, town gets more money. Fairer and more even way for taxpayers to pay for the fire company. We are the lowest tax rate in Fulton County to provide fire protection services. Brian is open to questions to understand how this works.

Fireworks - will be going up to \$7500. It is all done through donation – no budget item. Jana Dykeman asked how much was generated this year – roughly \$5000. We have \$4000 in account for next year. Even with a five-year contract, they can increase the price. Chris Rohrs feels we should continue. July 4 is a Saturday and may be more expensive – need to reserve the date this week and confirm the price. Allison Mitchell thinks July 3 or 5 would be better. Merryn Byrnes recollects that it was done another day other than a Saturday in the past due to the price. Pine Lake never does it on the 4th due to high expense. We've never made a deposit – we pay that day. Brian Franz wonders if there is a risk in making a deposit. Jana Dykeman feels we should be able to collect the money and move forward.

2025 Kane Mt 100-year Celebration – commemorative T-shirts available. Sold 100 and have 100 coming. Marcus Harazin presented that CLCA had a “Don't Raise our Kane” campaign when they were going to tear it down in 1988. It is now one of the most highly visited Fire Towers in the ADKs. Encouraged people to visit the Historical Museum's website for Aug 14-17 schedule of the celebration. A proclamation is to honor those dates as the Kane Mt 100-year celebration. Our association has a formal stewardship agreement with DEC for volunteer stewards and with the Fire Tower association to give information about Kane and other places in the area. July 31 is kickoff with program by Allen Farber & Dick Loomis. CLCA has contributed to this. Aug 14 – youth event with the Forest Fire Lookout Assoc with Smokey Bear and fire truck. Nick Stoner Golf Course is also 100-year-old and having a free day of golf. Marty Podscotch will be talking at Shermans about fire towers. Aug 15 – stewards will be on the mountain every day, Caroga Historical Museum open every day. CAC will be playing music. Aug 16 – same, along with cornhole tournament, CAC has Cody Fry & Eddie Barbash, Deserts and Diaries – forest rangers/observers will be there to speak. There will be cards saying, “I climbed Kane Mtn”. Aug 17 – ice cream social at museum and more. Highway will be closed Saturday & Sunday and there will be a shuttle bus from the town and the Canada Lake Store for parking. Pine Lake will be open for parking. Please sign up as a volunteer. Our association has been highly involved, and Marcus is very grateful.

Nancy Myers – is it premature to speak about the state plans to renovate trail? Rick and Marcus met with DEC – the future reroute on the Green Lake trail is completed and will be released to Allen to send to our members. Also spoke about opening the cabin. Went in and assessed the condition (foundation, flooring, roof) – working on the next step to get it cleaned out and will open when the stewards are there to keep it protected.

Invasive Species – Lorrie needs volunteers at boat launch. Looking for Saturday morning 6-8 am and 4-6 pm shifts daily. We have 5 people who have committed to 6 of the 7 mornings throughout the entire summer. AWI is there until 4 but people still launch after – we still need help to prevent AIS during those times. Randy Fredlund is also looking for volunteers to inspect our lake. Presented a color-coded map and opportunity to sign up explaining that people are aging out. Currently our lake is not covered so we need help. Please contact Randy and Lorrie to help keep our lake clean!

Water Quality – John Byrnes – tests the lake 4 times a year. Reports are out about the quality of our water. CSLAP has been done by the Byrne Family for over 25 years. Archer Newell is now helping James Long with testing. Marcus said we are always looking at different lakes in the area for comparison. ADK lakes are getting browner – which is a concern. Canada Lake is doing very well. West and East Caroga has had algae blooms. These are lethal to animals and harmful to humans. Lakes Mgmt. plan is on our website and Archer will be looking at the 5-year statistics to make it easier for all to understand. SCALE survey is a new survey from RPI of ADK lakes ecosystems. Also looking at salt in the water and our wells – John Byrnes has been testing wells for this. Many in the area are impacted. Looking for a speaker to educate the highway departments of town and state and reduce usage.

Communication gear for the boat launch at West Lake – money has been put aside. There is no cell service – and a lot of research has been done to find the best avenue. The risk of accidents, fires, fights, etc. would make this very helpful to have there. It is too cost prohibitive to run a phone line. Looked into GPS but not that easy to use. Town has talked about increasing the signal and possibly adding Verizon. Talking to different places for any information. AWI stewards have a communication line to the DEC dispatch, but we are unable to use it.

2025 Directory – Chris Rohrs – Directory is in the mail – its attractive, legible and full of great information. Kudos to Cassandra Lyons for her creativity and ease to work with. Merryn Byrnes and Erin Beaudet have done a great job of compiling all the information from our members to include. Allen Farber coordinates the information and the maps. Sue Kasson helped with ad sales. Cover is an original oil painting done by Nick Gale from a drone photograph he took – that was donated to us, and it will be an auction item for the CAC gala Silent Auction. The directory will be available digitally sometime later in August. Total cost is \$500 due to Chris and Sue working ads so well.

Lake Luncheon – July 22 at Shermans – tickets will be on sale at the store and the picnic or a committee member. It is on Tuesday rather than Wednesday as no venues are available then.

Nominating – Chris Rohrs – Presented a slate of officers. 1-year terms are Rick Fink as President, standing for a 3rd term (first time ever), Mary Jablonski is President Elect, Lorrie Mott for Secretary and Steve Egan as Treasurer. Seven (7) directors are up for reelection – a 3-yr term: Steve Egan, Ed Fake, Randy Fredlund, Kate Freeman, Mary Jablonski, Dick Maider and Jon Vesey. Motion made by Dick Loomis to accept slate as presented, seconded by Brian Franz. Motion carried.

If you are interested in serving or know someone that would be a good director, please encourage them to contact us and join the team. Looking for the “young blood”.

Upcoming events: Picnic at Dykemans on July 19 from 12-3. Ice cream social August 2 at Bates Camp. Highway Pickup – August 6, rain date August 7 – meet at Canada Lake Store.

Committee reports – online – please review.

Old Business - Ken Luttmann asked for someone to chair the Youth Activities on the lake. Would like to put something together on August 2. Water Ski clinic – looking to transition to water ski club – interest in being a boat operator, taking a class to do so taught by a professional instructor. May need to join through USA Waterski Association. In order to know how to proceed we need to know if there is an interest....get in touch with Ken Luttmann, Ed Fake or Jackie Gilman.

New Business - none

Steve Egan made motion to adjourn at 8:09, seconded by Nancy Myers. All in favor