

MINUTES
CLCA Directors' Meeting
Saturday August 20, 2023
At 8:30 AM via Zoom and in person at the Caroga Town Hall

Attendees in person: Marcus Harazin, Rick Fink, Lorrie Mott, Bob Baker, Janice Corr, Kate Freeman, Stephen Egan, Henry Eifert, Mary Jablonski, Allen Farber, Dave Graves, Jon Vesey, Chris Rohrs, Dick Maider, Tom Lyon, Ed Fake, Ken Luttman

Attendees by Zoom: Brian Franz

Absent: Mark Moritz, Randy Fredlund, Merryn Byrnes

Rick Fink, President, called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM. Quorum is established with 11 members in attendance. The meeting was recorded via recorder.

President's Remarks – Rick Fink

Wished Allen Farber a happy birthday and welcomed our new directors: Ken Luttman, Janice Corr & Kate Freeman, our zoom attendees and thanked all directors for their work. Still looking for a president elect – need to fill by June to have membership vote in July annual meeting. Asked all directors to consider this position. Important issues are the boater safety course requirement which goes into effect January 1, 2025. Get the links out to membership and in the ECHO to give people a lot of time to get it done. Allen will put a link on the web along with a warning that it is for EVERYONE!!! At this point, another in-person course is not scheduled. Kate Freeman has done it online, completed in 6-8 hours, and gave “instructions” as to how to do it. Establish a committee for the 100 yr anniversary at Kane Mt. Ken Luttman has volunteered to be VP of Lake Activities.

Secretary's Report – Lorrie Mott - Date was incorrect for the meeting minutes in June.

Caroga book – needs to be corrected to Dave Graves. In the discussion on navigational buoys – who is passing rules? At the time we did not know – but have since found out that it is the municipality of the town or county. Chris made the motion to accept as corrected, Mary seconded, motion passed.

Any thank you notes that need to be written? Marcus mentioned that a list of donations were received from Erin. We have done written thank you notes in the past for in memoriam. Should we do a tax letter to members? The slip at the bottom serves as tax purposes. Lorrie will write thank you notes for donations outside of the organization.

Treasurer's Report – Steve Egan – Donations were \$5 short of this year's budget. Profit & Loss, we are right where we thought we should be. Have not written for any checks for the association support (fire department, etc.) – we will do so before the month is out. Chris thinks we should give more to the Fire Department since they are such an important organization (\$200 last year, \$500 this year). Allen asked if we give a donation when we use their building – No. Chris would like to make it a \$1000 and do it visibly so they feel our gratitude. Chris makes a motion to make the donation \$1000 for next year. Allen seconded the motion. All in favor – motion carries. Henry asked if we had any money set aside for the lawsuit in the case it is needed. No information has been presented from our lawyer thus far (waiting for discovery). Dick Maider - our position is we have no control over the dam so there shouldn't be any liability. The insurance company is covering all our defense costs (most have a deductible). The liability would be decided by what the policy says. The fact we have \$70K in the bank and we shouldn't have an issue. The insurance is for officers and board members. Residents applied for FEMA who expect a 25% contribution from the village who has said no. Marcus made the motion to accept treasurers report, seconded by Mary Jablonski, all in favor, motion passed.

Currently bank with Citizens bank – pay a very low percentage about \$35 in interest on \$70K. Steve spoke with Bill Easterly at NBT, who have a 5 month CD that pays 5% where we could put 3 separate ones at 20K each to only lose interest on one if we need money. No penalty for early withdrawal – just loss of interest. Janice moves we adopt NBT and Steve's recommendations, seconded by Jon Vesey, all in favor – motion passed. Check signing authority is currently Steve, Mary, and current president (which will change every year).

OLD BUSINESS

Water Quality – Marcus gave an update in his written report. CSLAP report (Merryn, John, & Kaelyn Byrnes) and Adk Lake Assessment program (James Long, Allen Farber, Archer Newell). Have requested a more detailed report. Last summer we added money to the program to assess the tributary from Irving Pond with the golf course and determine how it affects the lake.

Boater Safety – course was discussed in president remarks. Bob reported concerns on jet skis with disrespect to land and loons. Call made to DEC. He saw that there are comments made on the Canada Lake Store website but noted that people need to make calls themselves because of the timeliness. DEC was on the lake yesterday. Sheriff has been here. We all have the emergency sheet so be sure that residents use it. Stewards are at the launch without cell service and sometimes people get nasty. We need to thank the DEC and sheriff and ask them to continue to patrol, so they keep coming back. For any uncooperative people, send pics of the license plates to the sheriff.

Buoy will be delivered this week and have chosen the entrance to Lily Lake to place this first buoy. We do not have formal approval yet and need to register it with the DEC and ask the

town to have a public hearing, then pass a law (closest one being at Loon Lake that Marcus has researched). Property owners can put a buoy at 100 ft of your land as a hazard marker. Need to request for 3 buoys and get it in the books. Marcus drafted a notice and an ordinance for the Town. Suggest getting this done before Town officials change. Ask for an ordinance to continue rules as they are (anyone near a shoreline has to be 5 MPH unless picking up/dropping of a skier). We could apply to extend to Jetskis – 10 MPH within 500 ft or leave 5 MPH for all watercraft within 200 ft. Rick suggests we keep rules the same as they are to be consistent with the town. Otherwise, it may seem we are targeting jetskis. Marcus will work with Brian, Bob, and Rick. Jon mentioned that it is all boats speeding close to shore from his experience on Stony Point. The increase in traffic (data from West Lake boat launch) could allow us to try this law out to see how it works. Mary asked what is a good way to designate 100 ft. There are several buoys around the lake that denote that.

Invasive Species – Lorrie doesn't have a count of boats but there is an increase in boats both at the launch and wash. AWI is not allowed to refuse launch but the Town of Caroga stewards do SUGGEST that people go back to the boat wash. Most are very cooperative and do so, but a few refuse. Washed a floating dock that was covered in zebra mussels and took about 45 minutes to get them off. People are now using the boatwash a bit more and we are continuing to educate. Marcus thanked Lorrie & Randy for their work. Marcus thanked Lorrie, Mary and Ann Michelak for helping with the Jr. Steward program. Wildly received by the kids and Spectrum was there to document. AWI had a great table top model that showed how water moves to different places from different sources to impact the watershed. Suggests having them go down to the removal in Caroga next time. Article was in the Leader Herald as well. Dave asked if AWI, APIPP or Paul Smith experts could come down and check high risk areas like the boat launch. AWI has a 5 yr contract (renewed this year) to place stewards. We now have 3 (Caroga Campground, Boatwash, Launch), where we previously had none. Contract is to survey 1/3 of lakes/regions. They did ours & Southern ADKs last year and this year are in the central ADKs. We are on a cycle to have them come by. It gives us baseline information. Marcus sent a thank you note to them to show our involvement and gratitude. Do we need to redo the Darrin? It was about 7-8 yrs ago. We might want to consider this if AWI can't be back. Oneonta did a study of the chemicals in the lake (sun tan lotion, insecticides, pesticides etc.) that were in the lake. Rick thanked everyone for their hard work.

2024 Calendar of Events – Allen – make sure the picnic is on a Saturday – that has been corrected for next year. All VPS take this to your chairs. Chris made a motion to accept, seconded by Marcus, all in favor – passed

Water Level – Allen reported that Bill has been unable to do his daily level reports. Recommended that we need to have other people (younger) or an automatic measuring device. Marcus mentioned the USGS has water monitoring system that deals with the water

table and one is at the golf course. Should we pursue? Allen will talk to Brian Hyck. There is a monitor on the Green Lake Bridge and Stewarts Landing dam that goes to the DEC. If the water goes up too fast, they will jam and will not operate until physically reset by the DEC. Henry talked to someone repairing and it was short 2 wires...do not know where it is at now. Bill and Henry measure every day and if too much of a fluctuation, they let the DEC know immediately when their day starts (7:30 am). Rick thanked Allen, Henry & Bill for their invaluable work.

NEW BUSINESS

Kane Mt 100 year Anniversary – Rick would like to propose we establish a temporary committee to determine how we go about the celebration – Town, Fire department, Caroga Museum, etc. that need to be involved. Allen, as a trustee for the museum, mentioned they will be doing a show in 2025 for the fire tower. Could we do something as a lake association at the top of the mountain and have a separate town wide celebration involving all the stakeholders. Will also be the 100th anniversary of the golf course. Fire tower Lookout association will be great in helping to promote this. Dick Maider noticed an antenna on the tower – it is a repeater for DEC communications.

2025 Directory – Chris Rohrs has volunteered to run the committee. Cassandra Lyons has signed on to put it together. She does the book and Chris sells the ads. Nothing is needed from the directors at this time. Will rebuild the committee. Nothing needed to be added to the budget.

By-laws change – proposed last meeting to allow president to serve three consecutive one year terms (currently two). Since we are having a struggle to get people to join, possibly consider this change. Dick will consult the bylaws – membership need to vote on this. We would make decision now, proposal for annual meeting. Might make it harder to recruit presidents since it is a demanding job. Marcus's point was that it is a learning experience and that by the time you get to the end of the 2nd year, you have to turn it over and you have finally understood everything. ByLaws allow the president to be elected for a 2nd year already. How is the President Elect impacted? Could potentially be in for three years as well. Dick thinks the best resource is past presidents. Table this till June meeting and everyone think about it.

Firepump station – resident housing the west side of Dolgeville point would like it to be moved from their dock. All the rocks create quite a hazard – need to come in perfectly straight and in the dark would be very difficult. Proposing to retire that station. What is the reach – enough hose to reach the furthest camp at each station. In case of fire, you would put the pump in your boat and travel to the fire. Other residents have declined to host it. No place to store it. Rick recommends that people learn how to do it in a panic situation

rather than doing another demonstration. All the pump locations are in the ECHO and the directory. Put this out to the membership where the pumps are. Rick proposes to relocate the pump to a location TBD and address again in June. Allen to put it in newsletter so everyone is aware. Marcus suggested bringing the pump to the annual meeting. Jon would like to revisit Fire Safety with the fire department but has not been able to reach Howard Dutcher. A good contact is Allen Peck and Jon will follow up. Pumps are mainly used for non-road access camps and can be brought to any fire by boat. Rick has repaired the roofs of two pumps. Will use the roof from the “retired pump for the third. Rick donated all materials and time.

New members/donors – new members came in through boat parade – younger people that wanted to vote. Let’s not only welcome them but see if they would like to get involved in different committees. It’s very important to make personal contact with them. Encourage committee chairs to thank those that donated to the different committees. A lot of the new members are friends, a specific group of Allen’s who will work to nominate them.

Zoning, planning, codes – whether we establish a committee to deal with the town and monitor each month and provide information back to the membership on this subject. Many issues occur during the winter when most residents are not on the lake. Allen would like to include budgetary issues as well. This includes the referendum with the bond issues in November, which needs to get out to the members. Issues with assessment should be included and this to maintain communication between the town and the members. Ultimate concern is if the town is following the code – need to hold the town accountable for that. Have this committee be communication. We are very informal at this time with different people informed. Would like to make this more of a formal communication. Janice mentioned it is good to maintain informational flow but caution our 501 3c corporation can’t get involved in politics. This should not be in any way political. We do not want to get into disputes with members but instead monitor the town. Advocating beyond the town and get APA involved as well. For instance, ice fisherman put a strain on what is stocked in our lake. Write a letter to stock fish – if we want to get funded, we have to ask. Stay in touch with other lake associations in regards to this as they are allies and like-minded. Makes us stronger if we are involved with these groups as well. Chris – start with an ad hoc committee and learn from it. Purpose the committee still protect and preserve the watershed of our lake (our bylaws). Kate – let the general membership know that there is someone they can call from our association and add this person/group to the safety sheet. Would like to see a lawyer as part and, a person who is in communications as members of this committee. Allen thinks we could roll in the assessment committee already in place. Rick to work with Allen and Mary to come up with mission statement of the committee to eliminate any concerns. This committee does not solve disputes between neighbors. Dick can help with legal issues as a consultant but is limited working for the state.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Rick asks that each committee chair talks to a young person to get them on a committee. Go through the committee membership to make sure we have an accurate list of members. Committee reports – are all online need to get report sent prior to meeting. Committee lists – need to put the word out on this.

Mary – report on website. Received an email from Jane Davis updating the Loon report. We've requested more posters and canisters on protection of the loons. Jane mentioned jetskis circling a parent & chick. Dick reported on the bad behavior of a pontoon boat around loons trying to get a picture. Bob mentioned he goes out to ride around and check that loons are protected.

Lake organization – Jon Vesey

Winter Emergency had one incident. Dick followed up with Linda on the Falco lawsuit, they are in discovery. One of the issues is prescriptive easements – if you've been using land for years and years – you have the right to continue to use. Proving the camp has been in the family for years to protect them. Pictures or articles to help craft the defense would be a great help to Linda. Nominating committee still has room for one more member. Need new chair of Welcoming Committee. Lane Franz was the co-chair with Lois. Jon will circle back with her – Audrey Smith would be a great addition. Allen has asked for drafts to be sent to him to include in newsletter – he should not have to create. No change in Winter Committee.

Rick thanked Marcus for his two years of service as our President. A map was commissioned of Canada Lake with his camp noted. There is a list of presidents in the store that needs to be updated. The plaque now has to be a new plaque for CLCA presidents. Jon Vesey made the motion to have a CLCA plaque commissioned, Chris seconded, no discussion, all in favor, motion passed. Rick will take this on.

Boat parade – Tom Lyons would like to bring speed of boat parade down to 5-6 mph. The speed of 9-10 mph caused a small boat to be swamped.

Marcus – reminder on budget request – send letter to town supervisor and copy board members for funding of fish stocking. Trout are more likely to bite in the winter. Spending money for visitors to catch the trout for ice fisherman. Need to look into town budget to see what Caroga received for stocking in order to get the same. Town pays for testing on Caroga Lakes where we as an association pay for Canada Lake. Could also ask for the same.

Directory – Chris asked what additional things would be good to have in it? How to improve. Include Kane Mtn, Golf course, and emergency numbers. Make call to membership for any improvements.

Ed made motion to adjourn at 10:13, Steve seconded. All in favor.

Next meeting June 22, 2024 at 8:30 am at town hall.