

CLCA General Membership Meeting – July 9, 2016

The first general membership meeting of the Canada Lakes Conservation Association was called to order on Saturday, July 9, 2016 at 7 P.M. by President Dave Graves.

A quorum was established and the meeting continued.

President's Remarks-

Dave gave members the condensed version of the who, what, when, where, how, and why of the CLCA's formation: The CLCA was created last summer to better reflect a shift toward more of a conservation based organization and to comply with recent changes in NYS and Internal Revenue Service. The CLCA was formed for two purposes: to preserve, protect and maintain the Canada Lakes Watershed which incorporates Canada Lake, West Lake, Green Lake, Mud Lake, Lily Lake and its tributaries as well as the surrounding lands and forests for the benefit of the public and residents; and promoting and educating the users about safety and good stewardship practices.

The CLCA was incorporated at a special meeting called by Lois Miller, Dick Arthur, and Mary Jablonski. That meeting took place on July 31, 2015. Officers present at the meeting were President Dave Graves, President-elect Chris Rohrs, Secretary Deb Hoffman, and Treasurer Paul Corr. Also accepted as members were John Snyder and Nina McCormack (members of the 501c3 non profit study team). A 501c3 is a nonprofit public charity. There are advantages from both a tax standpoint and for individuals who contribute to that organization. It also gives us the opportunity to apply for grants. Lois Miller then contacted individuals who were able and willing to serve as directors of the organization. John Saunders, one of our Directors, will talk about the revised nomination process that we have for Directors.

A second special meeting of the CLCA was called to draft Association by laws. That meeting took place on August 22, 2015. Dick Maider will review those by laws. The first Directors meeting of the CLCA was also held on August 22, 2015. At that meeting committees, subcommittees, and chairpersons for the CLCA were named and voted on. The committees and chairs have been published in the lake association publication, the ECHO. If you would like more details of these three mentioned meetings, minutes can be found on our website which is kept current and transparent by Director Allen Farber.

A lot of people have done much to get the CLCA up and running quickly and effectively – a special thanks to Lois Miller for pushing to make things happen.

In addition to organization, we have also organized two New York State Department of Conservation visits to the West Lake boat launch to express our concerns for modification to that launch. We wrote a letter to DEC expressing our concern and did receive a response. The letter and response can be read on our website. We have also signed a stewardship agreement with the DEC and the big advantage there is that it provides workman's compensation coverage for our lake stewards at no cost to us.

A survey done last summer by the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College concluded that no invasive species were found in our lakes. This report confirms a survey done in 2003. Mike Durkee and Marcus Harazin have worked tirelessly throughout this past winter and spring to get the boat wash station located across the street from the Town Hall up and running.

Secretary's Report-Deb Hoffman

As this is the first general membership meeting of the CLCA there are no minutes to report. Any minutes referenced earlier in this meeting are posted on our website.

Treasurer's Report-Paul Corr

Paul handed out detailed balance sheets to all in attendance. These sheets indicated that as of Dec. 31, 2015 the CLCA had total equity of \$22,978.87.

As a 501c3 public charity we are required to file on a calendar year. Paul indicated that we did file on Dec. 31, 2015. Paul pointed out that the equity is divided into two categories ie.: restrictive and unrestrictive. As of Dec. 31, 2015 restricted funds totaled \$9,061.46 and unrestricted funds totaled \$14,735.00. Total expenses for the year were \$817.59 leaving the organization with a net income of \$22,978.87.

On a second balance sheet as of July 9, 2016 the organization had total equity of \$46,666.00. The last page handed out was the 2016 budget. Paul explained that since we are a new organization we do not have a comparative year. There were no questions and a motion was made to accept the Treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and all present were in favor. Point was brought up that there should be a note on a proposed budget for 2017. The Directors had voted on a proposed 2017 budget but after further discussion Dave and Paul believed that the budget for 2017 would be very similar to the 2016 budget. Rick Fink made a motion that the 2016 budget would work as well for 2017 with minor changes. Dave called for a vote and it passed unanimously.

President Graves then introduced guest speakers John Byrnes and John Delesky. These gentlemen are part of the team that conducts the Town of Caroga's Black Fly Control program. This program has been active for the last 23 years and the trained technicians treat roughly 140 miles of waterways in our town. Through the use of the chemical Bti, these streams are treated from March through the end of July. The chemical is placed in moving water where the larva of the black fly is found. For success in controlling these insects it is essential that treatment be applied when the larva stage is present. Bti is the only pesticide that NYS DEC allows to be used on state lands. An in depth description of the program can be found by visiting www.carogalakeny.com and clicking on the Bti tab.

As a member of the Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Department, John Delesky then encouraged everyone to purchase the fire number signs that the department is offering. These reflective house numbers that should be mounted near the highway thus making it much easier for the Fire Department to locate your home in case of an emergency.

Dave thanked both gentlemen for giving the group an insight as to how the Black Fly is being dealt with in our Town. If anyone is interested in joining this team, contact John Delesky. His numbers are listed on the Town's website.

New Business

By laws – Dick Maider

Dick pointed out that the by laws were attached to the notification of our meeting and are also on

our website. Dick explained that as a new organization there

need to be “rules”. These “rules” address membership, quorums, meetings, etc. Much of the current by laws are similar to those of an old organization. There were some changes made to address the 501c3 status (which expands the purpose of the organization). There is a reference to conflict of interest in the by laws but Dick doubts that would occur in an organization such as ours because we are a not for profit organization. If there is any interest in learning more about the conflict of interest policy, it is addressed on our website.

The by laws can be amended so if there is an issue that we would like to address the Board will consider whatever issue that may be and come up with language to deal with that situation and then at the next annual meeting that particular amendment will be put to the members for a vote. It would require a 2/3 vote to pass as an amendment to the by laws. It also takes a 2/3 vote of the membership to approve the existing by laws. Dick asked for a motion to approve the by laws, the motion was seconded and voted on passing unanimously.

Nominating Process – John Saunders

John circulated a sheet explaining the process for becoming a director or officer for the CLCA. John assured members that this was a process and could be subject to change if need be. The key element of this new procedure is communication with members letting everyone know of upcoming openings for either an officer or a director. John asked for a motion of the membership to accept this process of nomination. The motion was made by Dick Marder, seconded by Dave Graves and passed unanimously. With membership approval the process will be posted on the CLCA website as well as appear in the 2017 Echo.

Invasive Species/Boat Wash Station – Mike Durkee

Mike informed the group that last year was a banner year for number of boats launched at the West Lake site. There was a full crew of volunteers and paid stewards. On one day over the 4th of July weekend, more than 70 boats launched at the small fishing site. Mike expressed his appreciation for the support the Town has given our Association. This has turned into a wonderful partnership.

The boat wash station is now operational. It has been a process that started back in December when Mike and Marcus heard of a grant available through DEC that would allow more monies to be available for boat wash stations. These monies allowed us to purchase the high power sprayer that is used at the wash station. There are two different grants: one for equipment and one for

operation. Though the Town had to initially fund this, Mike is confident that the Town will be reimbursed by EDC and DEC.

Mike pointed out that we are learning as we go at the wash station. Whenever you set up a new facility it takes some time for it to catch on. There is the assumption that there is a charge for this service – both the wash and inspection are free. There was also a disconnect with DOT. They placed signs that indicated it was a boat inspection station. To some this means that boat and trailer registration is being checked. Mike is working with the agencies involved to get the signs to read BOAT WASH STATION. We are conducting both an inspection and a decontamination process. This is a risk management process. Pine Lake and Canada Lakes are the only two lakes in the immediate area that have been inspected and found free of invasive species. This means that they have found no evidence. Pleasant Lake is also free but these invasive species are on the move. We are doing the best we can with the technology available. There are no approved chemical available at this time. We have the lake steward program, the lake inspector program, and Marcus now has people willing to go down into Lily Lake. Each year the reports come back showing no signs of the invasive species, which is encouraging.

A member asked if there was a plan for closing off the area at Stewart's Landing where one could easily launch a boat. Mike explained that for years we have tried to work with the SLA to at least have a steward program in place. There was no interest and it still remains a concern of ours. Henry Eifert told the group that the Stratford Supervisor and DEC have plans to block off this unauthorized launch with a grate and boulders. There was a round of applause at this announcement.

There was another question regarding the sheriff's boat going from lake to lake and the possible spread of invasive species. Tony Sturchio spoke of a conversation with Sheriff Giardino who assured him that the patrol boats would go through the wash station before and after entering Canada and Caroga Lakes. Dave Graves also spoke to the addition of the boat patrol on the lake. The revitalization of this program came about through a \$10,000.00 donation from the Stewart's Corporation and an additional \$3,000.00 from the Sacandaga Lake Association. With these funds there are plans for 16 patrols on Sacandaga, four patrols on Canada Lake and four on the Caroga Lakes. The CLCA board has discussed a monetary donation and though we are supporting having a presence, which would promote lake safety, we decided to wait and see how these patrols go this summer. There were Board members that felt very strongly that it was important to support these efforts so it was decided that the CLCA would write a letter to the Sheriff requesting information as to where donations could be sent. This information regarding donations is on our website. Another member pointed out that since the CLCA is promoting safety that perhaps rules and regulations concerning safety could be printed and made available to renters of cottages who are unfamiliar boating/recreational safety practices. The CLCA Board

plans to have further talks with Sheriff Giardino.

Mike wrapped his presentation by saying at the end of the day it is a responsible and conscious boat owner who has to do most of the work to keep our lakes free of invasive species. This is what we are trying to do through the handouts we use, the stewards are trained to take the boaters through a little pattern or discussion about invasive species, how the spread and so on. All this is to help the boater understand that they have a responsibility as a boat owner.

Tony reported that he had received a call regarding the placement of the wash station and its proximity to the road. Tony assured the group that trenches have been dug and filled with gravel so that there is no run off water onto the highway.

Committee Reports

Lake Management – VP Mary Jablonski

Environment/Ecology-Dave Graves

Rosemary Lee, member of this group spoke first offering information on the Loon census that has been taken for the past seven years by lake residents. Rosemary brought brochures with information on what the loons need, ie: nesting area, nursery area for the chicks. At present there is one chick usually seen on the back of its parent. The nursery area begins at the entrance to Lily Lake and back toward Rick Fink's property on the south shore trail covering a large portion of the western shore of our lake. Rosemary urged residents to share information regarding the loon chicks and the nesting and nursery area. Rosemary announced that the date for this year's survey would be July 16th and the group is looking for someone to count on Green Lake. She also reminded everyone that there is a canister for used fishing line at the boat launch. Loons can become entangled in this line if not disposed of properly. Rosemary then informed the group that a research institute has three signs that they are offering the group identifying nesting areas. The environmental group indicated that they would give the institute a small donation. Rosemary felt that one sign could be placed at the boat launch, another at the Canada Lake Store and the third to be decided on. There were eight or nine loons on our Lakes last summer. We need to keep our population up by protecting the nesting areas.

Chairman Graves then continued the committee's report. The group had its first meeting on June 12th. Three main topics were discussed: the West Lake Boat launch-there is a governor's initiative called the Great South Woods project that supersedes work on the Ferris Lake Unit Management Plan. The initiative is to enhance and diversify public access to the forest preserve

and conservation easement lands of the southern Adirondack Park. The proposals have not been made public but it is designed to promote tourism. Dave feels we need to pay attention to this project as it becomes available. This could have an impact on what the State does with the boat launch.

The group also talked about terrestrial invasives. Japanese knotweed – patches around the lake are on our website. There are individuals keeping an eye on small patches of phragmites where progress is being made. The third concern was the appearance of the trees on the Island. A forester with the DEC, John Desantis, Rick Fink (chair of the Island committee) and Dan Yuenger, a lake resident, whom has a forestry background were brought together. Several years ago four white pines were planted but it appears that the branches of these young trees have been torn off and used for kindling. Another concern is that there is evidence that the Island is being used as an outhouse. We need to educate family, friends, and renters concerning these issues. Rick is going to reach out to the younger generation and see if we can't get them to join in getting some of these issues solved. In regards to the condition of the trees, it was suggested efforts to reconstitute the soil on the Island. The best solution to date is to spread a thin layer of compost, peat and sand over the surface. Rick wanted to get a bit more information before moving forward. It was suggested not putting the dock in for a year. Rick said we have to be careful what we do as the Island is owned by the State not the Association.

Fire Safety-Bill Fielding

Bill encouraged everyone to purchase one of the fire number signs that the fire department is offering at a very reasonable price. It makes it much easier for the department to locate a residence in an emergency. Bill reminded everyone to have a charged fire extinguisher as well as a garden hose handy as this would be the first line of defense is a fire occurred.

Fishing-Doug Smith

Doug indicated that there were 250 rainbow trout put into Green Lake during the spring stocking. There had also been a donation of \$100.00 given by the Pine Tree Rifle Club.

Lake Safety-Tony Sturchio

Tony cautioned residents that are out swimming away from shore to pull something behind them or come up with some device that makes them visible to boaters who are coming into shore. Also suggested to those renting their properties to print up some guidelines for water and boat safety. There were concerns expressed regarding skiers being pulled too close to shore and

another asked if spotters were still required when skiing – absolutely yes and the spotter must be at least 10 years old. All of these concerns can be discussed with the Sheriff.

Property Assessment-Linda Clark

No report

Stewardships

Adopt Highway-John Broderick

John indicated that there had been a pick up on July 8th. DOT has agreed to change the sign on Route 29A to read ‘Canada Lake Conservation Association’. John is stepping down and Shawna Thompson will be taking on the chair position. John has chaired this committee for 13 years and received a well deserved round of applause for his dedication. Shawna pointed out that Sue Tantelo has participated in 26 pickups and husband Dan is a close second in participation. Shawna passed around a sign up sheet for anyone wishing to participate in the program. The next scheduled pickup has been set for August 17th with an 8:30 A.M. meeting in the Store’s parking lot. You must be at least 18 years old to participate in this program.

Adopt Shoreline-Deb Hoffman

Shores have been canvassed and look very clean. The shoreline sign is up again and we are now aware that several Dolgeville Pt. residents feel that it interferes with the nesting area and is offensive. The committee will look into relocation of the sign so that visitors and residents are aware that we are attempting to maintain state lands surrounding our lakes so that they remain free of trash, etc.

Campsites-Betsy Cannon

Both Lois and Mary have checked the campsites and reported that they were all being used. The sites looked to be in good shape though one of the picnic tables appears to need some repairs. There are still concerns regarding campfires that are left burning. There is no way to monitor this. Someone asked if a sign could be posted as to proper steps to extinguish a campsite before vacating the site. Again these are State sites and individuals cannot post.

Fire Tower-Tim Mitchell

Tim reported that the trail has had extensive use so far this season and it is very clean. He does suggest that if you do walk up to take a plastic bag with you in case you do see any trash along the way.

Water Level-Bill Fielding/Henry Eifert

The water level has been good so far this summer. The same individual as in the past is still in charge and when he sees that rain is in the forecast, he's down there to open the gate. Consistency has been the key.

Water Purity-Merryn Byrnes

CSLAP samples are being taken. Ecoli program hasn't started yet. Merryn is looking for volunteers. Fifty samples are taken throughout the summer. Merryn introduced Heidi Christianson from Pleasant Lake Association. Their Association is now testing their waters and they are sharing the incubators with us. Merryn said it's been wonderful having another association become involved in testing their lakes and the collaboration with other lakes has been great.

Lake Organization-VP Dick Arthur

Adirondack Committee-Jim Hays

Jim indicated that the purpose of this committee is to communicate with other associations throughout the Park and help wherever needed. There is a meeting of the Adirondack Lakes Association on July 29th. Jim plans on attending and would welcome anyone else interested in attending.

Directory-Dick Arthur

This is an off year for the publication. The next issue will come out in 2020. There are still copies available for purchase.

Fire Department-Alan Peck

Alan spoke about fund raising for the new firehouse. The department is selling tiles (4"X4" @ \$75.00 for a family) and (8"X8" @\$150.00 for business) that will be used in the design of the new firehouse. There are also plans for an upcoming barbeque with proceeds going toward the building fund.

By laws-Dick Maider

Previously discussed earlier in the meeting

Echo-Mark Moritz

No report

Legal-Dick Maider

Dick reported that there are no legal matters under consideration (which is a good thing!)

Membership-Merryn Byrnes

Merryn reported that we currently have 283 active members. She went on to share the breakdown of the donations designated by our members: \$225.00 for fish stocking, \$2,022.50 for the 4th of July celebration, \$2,352.50 for invasive species, \$220.00 for youth activities, and \$2,145.00 went into our general fund.

We have 13 new members this year, two of which are Pleasant Lake Association and the Caroga Lake Museum. Last year was a record year for membership. We broke 300 members. Merryn believes this was in part due to 2015 Directory. For those members who have not received their copy of the 2015 Directory, see Merryn after the meeting. The 2016 updates to the 2015 Directory have been emailed to all members in good standing.

Each year Merryn holds a drawing to help with attendance at our meeting. This year's winner

were: John Broderick – magnet of the Island (photo by Joanne Clark), mug with loon – Karen Memmott, and a piece of canvas art went to Tony Sturchio.

Website-Allen Farber

Allen has worked diligently on our website. It is full of much of the information we have discussed here tonight ie; boat safety and the location of the fire pumps. Allen is working on a weekly newsletter containing events for the coming week. Allen asks that all information be sent to him by Thursday evening so that it can be place in the Friday edition. Allen is open to any suggestions regarding the website.

Lake Activities-VP Chris Rohrs

Chris pointed out that there is a lot going on this season and we have great sources to find that information ie.: website, email, bulletin board at the Store, and the Echo. Chris gave a brief run down of the activities.

Fireworks-it was another spectacular year thanks to the Mannings, the Fieldings, and the support of member donations.

Ski and Wakeboard Clinic- this event was canceled this morning due to weather conditions. Diana Leaf plans to reschedule for either the last Saturday in July or the first Saturday in August. Diana indicated they are always looking for volunteers.

Ladies Luncheon-the Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at the Pine Lake Lodge. Cat Graves announced that she has a sign-up sheet available tonight for anyone who would like to attend.

CLCA Picnic- this event will be held on July 23rd beginning at 1 o'clock at the home of Mike and Mary Cannon on Fulton Road.

CLMF-There will be two barge concerts by the Caroga Lake Music Festival group this year. The first will be held on Saturday, July 23rd at 6 o'clock and again on Sunday July 31st again at 6 o'clock. These concerts will be held on the water in front of the Canada Lake Store.

Boat Parade-Kristin Franz announced the boat parade will be held on Sunday, July 24th at 1 o'clock. The parade will begin at the McCormick/Newell camp (202 South Shore Rd.). Judging and presentation of the trophy will be held at the Brian Franz camp (272 South Shore Rd.) where refreshment will be served.

Youth Activity Update-Kristin indicated that 50 people showed up at the Alan Peck camp and decorated T-shirts. This was somewhat a spur of the moment activity. Kristin suggested that folks check the website and/or the bulletin board at the Store for upcoming youth activities. Chris had spoken to Kathy Luttmann and she indicated there is a youth activity scheduled for August 6th. More information will appear on the website.

Ice Cream Extravaganza-this event will be hosted again this year by the Alexander family (152 Green Lake Rd.). The event will take place on Saturday, August 6th at 2 o'clock.

Sailing Club-There is a tremendous write up in the Echo with activities and plans for the Sailing Club.

Kathy Manning spoke on Judy Smith's behalf with information on upcoming activities at the Caroga Lake Museum. The annual craft fair will be held on Saturday, July 16th.. The August Artist of the Month will feature paintings by Paul Bramson and poems by Helen Hays. This presentation will be given by Wally Hart and Bill Crankshaw and will be held at the Museum on August 2nd.

John Saunders presented the current slate of Directors – John Broderick, Ed Fake, Mary Jablonski, Dick Maider, Lois Miller and Tony Sturchio. Doug Smith has expressed his desire to step down. John thanked Doug for his many years of service to our Association. The Board nominated and approved the appointment of Mike Durkee to fill this vacancy. John then presented the slate of officers for 2017- Dave Graves- President, Chris Rohrs-President-elect, Deb Hoffman-Secretary and Paul Corr-Treasurer. The motion to approve the slate of Directors and Officers was made by Mike Durkee and seconded by John Broderick. The slate was unanimously approved.

Linda Fake asked that anyone interested in providing food or a place to stay for members of the CLMF could contact Martha Price or Linda has the information on her personal Facebook page.

With no other business to discuss, Ed Fake made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dave Graves and was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Hoffman - Secretary