

**Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association**

Board of Director's Meeting

October 24, 2020 9:30 am

Via Zoom

**Meeting called to order** at 9:32 am by President Evelyn Costello.

**Directors Present:** President Evelyn Costello, Vice President Lynn LeCours, Treasurer Rick Ryan, Secretary Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo, Mary Ferguson, Ed Costello, Lynn Wilbur, Peggy Pahoulis, Lynn Pollock, Tim Hopkins, Nancy Hieber, Sheila Rappazzo, and Tom LeCours

**Directors Not Present:** Charlie Cooke, Gene Henry and Joanne Bonacker

**Minutes:**

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A motion to accept the Election Meeting minutes of September 19, 2020 was made by Lynn W, Sheila seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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Report was sent in advance of meeting by Rick. No questions from Board. Before moving money from Lake Management program "whole" (zero for year), wanted Board approval to move amounts as presented in document sent by Rick. Money would be moved from money market sub-account. Sheila asking why money needs to be moved out of savings account if you don't need it right now because that account gets better interest. Rick described that if money isn't moved, then the CLIA donation would be upwards of \$12,000. Need to move money to checking account otherwise checking account is short money. Sheila questioning why the money can't just be moved among the sub-accounts. Peggy asked on the P&L for harvesting program, there's \$8,000 income showing and can't that help defray costs of this. Rick described the money can come from wherever Board agrees. Evelyn described that funds need to remain in harvesting program account to cover repairs for harvester. Evelyn clarified that there's currently a deficit which Rick is just trying to balance out. Rick described the need to create a sub-account for lake management. Evelyn and Rick clarified that the interest earnings are making minimal money at this point due to interest rates close to 0%. The interest earnings noted in the reports represent a cumulative amount since the account was opened. Recommendation by Evelyn to fund the deficit now and evaluate the banking account structure at a later time.

Lynn W made motion to accept treasurer's report as presented, fund deficit and accept plan as laid out by Rick. Tom seconded. Agreed to further discussion about bank account structure.

## **Report of Officers:**

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No discussion.

## **Report of Committees:**

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### Membership - Peg

Change of property ownership on lake. Peg sends new welcome letter to owners and brochure on lake management. Will need to reprint those next spring because not many left. Also had an "important phone numbers" flyer which should also be updated/reprinted in future. If looking to fill space in newsletter, can always put this information there as well. Contact directory was successful; more than 50% signed up for that. It's a season only list, so when membership starts again in January 2021, the list will be re-built based on information in membership form to ensure it's clean season to season. Sheila asked whether or not that means residents need to re-agree to be included in the directory each year. Peg indicated maybe we put a box "use same info from last year" on form to make this step easier. Lynn will send info to Peg on new neighbors on Tall Pines due to recent closure.

### Newsletter/Ad Program – John

Evelyn shared that newsletter/ad program is being prepared by John for the next newsletter. The ad program will be between 12-15 advertisers. John will continue to solicit new advertisers. If anyone has a lead or wants to advertise please reach out to John. John will also reach out to BJ Farms and offer them a free spot for their donations to the BBQ. Mary asked about reaching out to Maple Land Farms; they live on Bunker Hill Road and they may be interested in advertising. Evelyn to share this with John. Tim indicated Maple Land Farms used to advertise. CLIA used to dump weeds there; indicated there may be some hard feelings and they may choose to not advertise. Board agreed to ask anyway. Tom asked if Battenkill Dairy advertises due to proximity to lake.

### Building and Grounds – Tom

Building is closed with help of Gene and Charlie. Don't turn on water. Everything is fine now. Rick asked if he should shut off internet for winter and Tom agreed to do so. Looking to make the turn-on and turn-off a seasonal event.

### Insurance - Ed

Ed will reach out to our Insurance Company after the new year. Our policies renew in the spring.

#### Promotions – Tom

Stores closed; six to eight bags of product remain to be picked-up. Thought of doing something for Christmas, but product distribution will be difficult. Agreed to start up in spring with nicer/higher end items. Evelyn made list of names of people who had bags left over so Nancy can reach out to them to get those distributed. Lynn will mail one. Tom and Lynn have reached out already multiple times, but good idea to have Nancy reach out too.

#### Website - John

As per John, next year's "all in one form" is up and ready to roll. The platform we use for the website no longer has a smart phone option. Therefore you will need to click on "Visit our full website" to access the site.

#### Facebook – Sue/Lynn L

#### Database – Nancy

Doesn't see any changes for that right now.

#### Social/Fundraising - Lynn, Evelyn

Mary recommended to have a few kid-friendly events. Art contest and give out prizes during ice cream social. Do something to bring in a younger crew to some of the events with someone judging from CLIA. Also trying to bring in younger families trying to use clubhouse. Also looking at movie night. Look to have a meeting in the spring to garner new ideas.

#### Lake Management Task Force - Lynn W.

Task force met. Lynn asked for Gene to open spillway, which he did.

#### Education - Lynn W

#### Harvesting - Evelyn/Tim-

The Town of Greenwich came in with their budget at \$4,500 for 2021. We were budgeted for \$5,500 this year and only received \$5,000. Evelyn met with Don Ward, Supervisor and he clearly pointed out that they would be receiving 20% less from the State and we should expect less. No word from Argyle yet.

Harvester has a crack in the top of one of the pontoons and will need to be welded. Additional other items to be repaired on harvester as well. Gene received an estimate from Custom Metal Works LLC to perform all the repairs on the harvester for \$1,000. Tim had two people look; one refused to even look at it and the other quote was for double the amount of Custom Metal Works LLC. Tim and Tom believe

harvester will be in much better condition after these items are rectified. Motion by Tom to repair harvester. Seconded by Lynn L.

Tim and John have agreed to a \$15.50 hourly rate regardless of who is on the harvester. Tim and John R. will sign off on each other's time sheets and all time sheets and receipts will be dropped off to Evelyn on a weekly basis and shared with Rick.

Tim mentioned the concern about running harvester and being chairperson for committee and that being a conflict of interest. Tim has decided to step down as chairperson due to this concern by some of the Board. Tim believes without support from Board why is he working so hard to do both? Had been running the harvester and chairperson for many years without an issue; became an issue last year and this year. Gene has offered to be the chairperson and help out when needed. Lynn W clarified the problem came in when we received the grant which prohibited someone from earning money in the program also running the program. Evelyn being chairperson with Tim running the harvester should have cleaned-up this issue. Tim indicated it continues to come up and would be more comfortable stepping down from the program to eliminate this issue overall. Concern about no one having experience with harvester and the process. Ed weighed in to agree with Tom that Tim has done a fabulous job and has an incredible amount of experience in harvesting and has a lot to offer to the Board and that committee. Final consensus was to have Evelyn work with John and Tim on Harvesting Committee as chairperson utilizing the structure previously established and agreed-upon at a prior meeting.

#### Herbicide – Sheila

Had contact with Solitude (chemical applicator) regarding how to plan for treatment going forward since the post-treatment assessment did not look at all areas that may potentially need treatment. Solitude will meet with DEC to discuss a plan to identify a much larger area for potential treatment than would actually be treated and then identifying the actual areas before in the assessment that would be done in the Spring just prior to treatment. We need to ensure that not identifying actual treatment areas until shortly before treatment will not impede getting the permit from DEC. It will also require a very quick turn-around from Solitude to identify treatment areas. Solitude gave assurance that would be done. Sheila is certain they will identify a larger area to treat going forward than we have money to address.

#### CSLAP - Lynn Clauer

All testing done; every two weeks this summer. Report coming in Spring.

#### Water Chestnut - Gene

### Spillway - Gene

Spillway opened October 15, 2020; lake draw-down has begun. Appears to be down five to six inches. Tim believes it will go down a few more inches since there was still water in the spillway. Lynn W. raised concern about calling the spillway a dam; she requested it always be referred to as a spillway.

### Email Blast - Nancy/John

All emails to the community will be formatted in a letter form from Evelyn. Nancy/John will send all requests to Evelyn. These emails are opportunities to engage the community in conversation and market the Association.

### Signage – Mary

Road signs removed and stored for the season. Nancy took care of getting new plastic sheets for signs.

### **Old or unfinished business**

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- Press release re: funding for the lake to be approved by the Board (Release was sent in advance of meeting). Evelyn believed headline should be changed from “fed-up” to “frustrated”. Board agreed. Evelyn spoke with Journal and Press to possibly do a release and/or story. Evelyn asked if there is a DEC contact. Lynn W indicated the “Fish and Game Department” is the right area to work with. Mary recommended that we give the DEC a heads-up on this before issuing the release. Anne recommended the CLIA Board write a letter to the DEC alerting them to the issue and the upcoming press release. Anne also recommended the Board create a second letter for residents to use as a template. It could be recommended to residents that they personalize the template letter and mail it to the DEC or other agencies which the Board recommends so that our lake’s needs get the attention it deserves by the proper agencies.
- Tom mentioned looking to have a program where there would be a “registration-type” sticker which would be purchased and displayed by anyone who has approval to be on the lake. Lynn W indicted CLIA has met with the Towns of Argyle and Greenwich and DEC previously about charging for parking to generate revenue. Lynn W indicated switching from one agency to another is quite a hurdle. Tim mentioned over a decade ago someone indicted why we couldn’t turn it over to Parks and Recreation. Boat launch paid for thru NYS Fishing Licenses. Stickers on boats would require us to do a “lake district” which has been shut down multiple times in the past by various agencies. Board agreed that all this doesn’t mean we shouldn’t try again.
- Lynn L had begun working on a design for a Cossayuna Lake flag last year; she will share designs. Will discuss this separately as a fundraiser. Evelyn recommended we fly the flag from the pavilion so everyone can see.

- After much discussion, Board agreed to hold off on issuing the press release. Anne and Mary to write letter to DEC from Board (share with full Board before finalizing) and then create template letter for the residents to send. Letter will indicate timeline that the Board will issue the press release to the media within approximately two weeks of sending the letter to the DEC. Letter will focus on specific issues of lack of garbage pick-up and maintenance of porta potty at boat launch. Letter will also indicate a recommendation to shut down the porta potty to the public if they can't maintain it. Mary recommended, and all agreed, that the lake needs the DEC to be our ally, not our enemy. Acknowledge in the letter that we know they are overburdened. Lay out how having unkempt garbage everywhere is dangerous to our residents and how having unsanitary bathrooms is a health concern to the public.

### **New business**

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- Bulkhead and dock upgrade, possible fundraiser/appeal to membership
- Possible "welcome to the lake" coffee for new members. Mary recommended some small inexpensive Cossayuna gift for new members with information on membership, etc. Tim mentioned a welcome basket used to be given to new members. Peggy mentioned she could include one Cossayuna sticker in each welcome letter packet to new residents.
- Anne mentioned the end-of-season letter issued by Evelyn and how it was a nice touch.

### **Adjournment**

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Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lynn W; Tom seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:44 am.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo*

Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo  
CLIA Secretary