

**Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association, Inc.**  
**Election Meeting**  
**August 21st, 2021**

**Meeting called to order** at 10:16 am by President Evelyn Costello.

**Directors Present:** President Evelyn Costello, Vice President Lynn LeCours, Treasurer Rick Ryan, JoAnne Bonacker, Charlie Cooke, Ed Costello, Mary Ferguson, Gene Henry, Nancy Hieber, Tim Hopkins, Tom LeCours, Sheila Rappazzo

**Directors Not Present:** Lynn Pollock

**Directors by Proxy:** Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo (Evelyn Costello), Peggy Pahoulis (Lynn LeCours), Lynn Wilbur (Sheila Rappazzo)

**General Membership:** 49 voting members were present (39 present and 10 by proxy); a membership quorum **was** reached (45 voting members present is needed for a quorum). General membership proxies: Cindy Esterby (Rick Ryan), Michael Blair (Rick Ryan), Gloria Hubbard (Rick Ryan), Catherine Boudeau (Rick Ryan), Richard Snyder (Nancy Hieber), Marie Rokjer (Tim Hopkins), Arthur Frost (Karen Frost)

**Minutes of June 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting:**

A motion to accept the June 13<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting minutes was made by Gene Henry. Ed Costello seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

The 2020 Fiscal Summary and 2021 Fiscal Summary and Profit & Loss Statement as of 8/13/21 was distributed at the meeting.

Richard Kahn asked a question about Association profitability. Rick and Sheila responded to the question regarding the funds in the Lake Management account. This year, Lake Management did not use all the money allocated due to the Solitude mix-up and resulting non-treatment of Eurasian Milfoil.

After discussion, a motion to accept the Treasurer's report of 8/13/21 was made by Mary Ferguson. Tom LeCours seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Lake Management Report:**

In order to get a permit for lake treatment next year, DEC requires that the Lake Management report be approved by the membership. Sheila reviewed the plan for the membership. She noted that most of the report is similar to that in prior years. Discussion topics: Spillway Management - the biggest challenge is managing a constant level of lake water throughout the

year. Sheila noted that herbicide is used only for the invasive species of Curlyleaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil, and that water chestnuts are pulled by hand.

Algae management: There are not many details in the report, as this is a new program. A representative from SOLitude had suggested that areas of algae could be targeted for remediation. Algae has not been treated on the lake in the recent. SOLitude will develop a cost structure for the treatment of algae for consideration by the Board, and DEC would have to approve an herbicide treatment.

Management of native weeds: this is the main focus of the harvesting program. Masses of Coontail in particular are problematic on the lake.

Wetlands: We have 4 wetland areas: on west shore, a major area in the south of the lake, in Turtle Cove and near the boat launch. We are allowed to treat no more than 50% of wetland areas, per DEC requirements.

Minimizing levels of nutrients flowing into the lake: The plan addresses this through providing educational materials, and providing information about septic systems. With regard to septic systems, Sheila noted that many systems are very old.

Reducing road runoff: large amounts of nutrients enter the lake after heavy rainfalls.

Monitoring water quality: We have participated in the CSLAP program for 29 years. Every 2 weeks, Association volunteers take water samples and send to the state for testing and analysis.

Richard Kahn asked a question about the source of funding for the herbicide treatment (currently privately raised through the CLIA) and asked if the fundraising could begin sooner. Evelyn noted that most donations for herbicide treatment occur just prior to the herbicide treatment. Mary Ferguson noted that a separate direct mailing soliciting donations might be more effective. Marie Dumas noted that most people get agitated when algae is highly visible, and now that it was been added to the plan, it might help raise money sooner.

Frank Gabianelli asked if herbicide treatment is completely funded by the association. Sheila responded that this was the case and noted that shortfalls are made up through the General Fund and not out of the harvesting fund. Frank politely disagreed.

A motion to accept the 2022 Lake Management Plan was made by Marie Dumas. Gene Henry seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

### **Election:**

As this is a contested election, Nominating Committee Chair JoAnne Bonacker appointed the following members to serve as Tellers to collect and count the ballots, per the CLIA By-laws:

Eileen Musso, Frank Musso and Joe Bonacker. Eileen Musso was named Head Teller.

The Tellers collected and counted all marked absentee and regular ballots in view of the assembly. After the ballots were counted, Teller Eileen Musso presented the results to President Evelyn Costello, who then announced the results.

The results of the Officer election:

Evelyn Costello (for President):	43 votes
Lynn LeCours (for Vice-President):	45 votes
Anne Marie Caliendo (for Secretary):	43 votes
Rick Ryan (for Treasurer):	44 votes

As the election for Officers was uncontested, Evelyn, Lynn, Anne Marie and Rick were re-elected to serve 1-year terms.

The results of the Director election:

Marie Dumas (for Director):	27 votes
Gene Henry (for Director):	45 votes
Lynn Jackson (for Director):	40 votes
Peg Pahoulis (for Director):	38 votes
Karen Ryan (for Director):	39 votes

As the election of Directors was contested, with 5 candidates seeking 4 positions, the top 4 candidates (Gene Henry, Lynn Jackson, Peg Pahoulis, Karen Ryan) have been elected to 3-year terms as Directors of the Association. Evelyn thanked all the candidates for their contributions to the Association.

### **Report of Officers:**

Carrie Woerner participated in a recent Water Chestnut pull and wrote a complimentary (if somewhat overstated) account of her experience and the good job that the CLIA is doing to help manage the health of the lake. Evelyn noted that a priority for Carrie Woerner was getting a boat washing station for the lake. Richard Kahn asked about the funding of other parks in the area, and Frank Gabianelli asked if having a public boat launch afforded the lake any other benefits. Evelyn responded that the lake is not considered a park and thus is not eligible for park funding.

### **Report of Committees:**

**Membership:** Evelyn updated the membership in the absence of Peggy Pahoulis: We are at 300 members, the most members the Association has ever had.

**Water Chestnut Removal:** Gene Henry: We have made great strides over the past few years. We have progressed from collecting boatloads water chestnuts to collecting mere buckets of them. We have a good group of dedicated volunteers, and have been concentrating on northern side of

the lake. We will turn our attention next year to the southern part of the lake. Gene thanked Tim Hopkins, John Ryan, Tom Sherin, Lynn Jackson, Sean Leathem, Rayna Henry, John Felicetti, Marie Dumas, Rick and Judy Stratton and others for their participating in the water chestnut pulling.

**Spillway:** Gene Henry: The spillway is operating well. Gene noted that he tries to keep it as close to the top of the spillway board as possible, checking levels every day. Some small cement maintenance work was also performed on the spillway.

**CSLAP:** Lynn Clauer / Sheila Rappazzo: Sheila reviewed the results of the 2020 CSLAP analysis with the membership. Highlights include: Cossayuna is a nutrient-rich lake, which results in issues with weed growth and algae. Year over year – the phosphorus was lower last year, which was better for recreational use. We have higher total phosphorus levels than in other NYS lakes. We have similar water clarity and water quality to other lakes.

Trends: over the past 29 years, water clarity and water temperatures have increased. We have been improving slowly over the years, showing that consistent care year of year is effective.

Algae blooms: we are moderately susceptible to algae blooms. Open water toxin levels are consistently below recreational levels of concern. Shoreline blooms showed high toxin levels during the bloom times.

Aquatic invasive species: Zebra mussels, Curly leaf pondweed, Eurasian Milfoil and Brittle Naiad are present in the lake. In addition to the non-native Brittle Naiad, there are also some varieties of Naiads in the lake.

**Social / Fundraising:** Lynn LeCours: Thank you to everyone for donations to the food pantry. We have delivered 2 very large loads of food and personal items to the Cossayuna food pantry. Personal items and cleaning products are always needed. The Chicken BBQ is next weekend, please get your tickets. Marie Dumas will be running the Halloween party. Country Line Dancing will begin in September. A chili cook-off is contemplated for October. Lynn also noted the flotilla later in the day.

**Online Stores:** Tom LeCours: Tom thanked the members for supporting the online store and announced that he will be writing a check for \$946 to CLIA as Walton's portion of the profits from online sales. Evelyn thanked Tom for his generosity.

**Building and Grounds:** Tom LeCours: Evelyn had noted previously the removal of the old refrigerators and mentioned that a member will be donating new refrigerators. The Hamilton family donated to sun shades for the pavilion. Thanks to John Ryan and Charlie Rappazzo for their ongoing efforts to maintain the building and grounds. We will be getting a handicap-accessible porta-potty for the rest of the season. The porta-potty will be delivered on Tuesday.

**Website:** John Felicetti: John thanked members for using the website on an increasing basis, and for purchasing event tickets in advance. Advance sales allow us to better manage food preparation, and makes event planning easier for the volunteers.

**Herbicide:** Sheila Rappazzo: We did a survey with SOLitude on August 10th for Eurasian Milfoil which will be treated next year. The survey revealed lots of scattered plants around the shoreline. Mary Ferguson asked how invasive species come into the lake. Sheila Rappazzo responded that much comes in through boats and that some is carried in by birds. Tim Hopkins noted some Adirondack lakes do not have motorboats but which have Eurasian Milfoil.

**Harvesting:** Tim Hopkins: Evelyn Costello thanked Tim Hopkins, John Ryan and Tom Sherin for their efforts in running the harvesting program. Tim Hopkin's updates: We have over 170 Harvesting customers this year. We have finished up the second round of harvesting. Naiads are a bit problematic to harvest; multipole passes are often required. Tim noted that 50 additional hours of harvesting were purchased by members this year. There have been no major breakdowns of the harvester this year; routine maintenance has been all that was required to date.

**Insurance:** Ed Costello: The CLIA building complex is currently insured for \$250,000. We believe the building is underinsured, given the cost of replacement in the event of a catastrophic event. Mike Mound provided a replacement cost value of \$365,000. Ed will coordinate getting a quote from the current carrier and 2 other companies.

**Meeting Adjournment.** A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Frank Gabianelli. Gene Henry seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.**

Respectfully submitted,



John Felicetti (acting on behalf of Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo)