

## **Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association**

### General Membership Meeting

June 13, 2021 – noon

**Meeting called to order** at 12:10 pm by President Evelyn Costello after confirming there was a quorum. Evelyn thanked everyone for coming to the meeting as well as all the financial support of the lake this past year.

Board Member's introduced themselves.

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

**Directors Not Present:** Charlie Cooke

### **Special Presentation by Corrina Aldrich and John Graham**

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Corrina works as the District Manager of Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District. John Graham is the Code Enforcement Officer for Washington County.

Corrina spoke about the septic tank replacement fund. She shared that they are still working to gather information to support the program since information was released about the program before they became fully plugged in to appropriately support it. Full details about this program are captured in the April 30, 2021 Board Meeting minutes; please refer back to that document found online at the CLIA website ([www.cossayunalake.com](http://www.cossayunalake.com)). Corrina recommended that anyone interested in researching this further visit the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) website and search for the septic replacement fund.

Question was asked about regulations about code enforcement of the septic tanks when property changes hand. Corrina indicated that the code enforcement officer is best suited to answer that question.

Question about whether the program was officially approved and if applications were being accepted? Corrina indicated yes, effective April 30<sup>th</sup> the program is open / contract was approved. They will seek to get letters to landowners out by end of July 2021. The application is on the EFC website.

Question about whether program only applies if replacing existing traditional septic system with a like-kind traditional septic system OR will it cover replacement of old traditional system with a holding tank? Corrina indicated the answer is complicated because it doesn't *have* to be a "like-kind" replacement – but it *needs* to be a replacement which ensures there will not be a water quality issue. For example, if there is a steel tank which needs to be pumped multiple times a year and it's likely to fail; they won't want a steel tank in as a replacement...they will want something more sophisticated.

Question about whether there is a minimum number of feet you need to install septic system from the lake; John indicated it is 100 feet.

John indicated that if the system is working then you don't have to do anything with it – even if it's old. Code enforcement will not require a replacement so long as the system is working. The person (a third party engineer or architect) who comes in to evaluate the system will determine if system is proper or fails.

Question about when someone comes in to check the system; does that independent professional have an obligation to report it to the County if there is an issue? John indicated as it stands now, they are not required to tell the County.

John indicated that there is a dye test which will show if some effluence is in the lake, but it's not fool proof and limited.

Question was whether an inspection by the County is required when there is a change of hands in the property. John indicated that's not currently required.

Question was if there's a system that's working but geographically it doesn't meet current code, can you replace what you have to upgrade without going through all code compliance? John indicated you can repair a system, but if you are increasing the number of bedrooms then must bring everything in compliance. If you are taking entire system out, then it's a replacement which must meet current code.

John indicated Code Enforcement exists to ensure they are meeting state requirements; they work with you to find legal options to meet those requirements. They are not there to cause problems; they will do whatever they can to help so the requirements are being met.

Question about when systems are pumped and that professional says you have a good working system, does that mean all is ok or you need another party to confirm? John indicated if there are no signs and they've done a thorough inspection then you're good.

Question about how the County identifies “suspect properties”. John indicated that typically there's a neighbor who brings something to the attention of the County based on a particular situation.

John's contact information: 518-746-2579

Corrina's contact information: 518-692-9940 and corrina.aldrich@ny.nacdnet.net

**Minutes:**

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A motion to accept the 2020 Election Meeting minutes was made by Peg and seconded by Marie Dumas. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

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A motion to accept the 2020 financials was made by Rayna Henry and seconded by Anne. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Nominations:**

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Joanne indicated that current officers: Evelyn, Lynn, Rick, and Anne have expressed interest in retaining positions for another year. Four Board seats are open. Peggy and Gene have decided to stay on for another three years. Lynn P and Charles can no longer continue; they were thanked for their Board service. Karen Ryan and Marie Dumas are willing to step-up to fill those vacant seats.

Opened up floor to other candidates. Lynn Jackson expressed interest. Lynn W indicated floor is open until end of meeting for nominations. Nominations will be closed at end of meeting.

Tim nominated Angela Leota for a Board position. A motion to accept the nominations was made by Evelyn and seconded by Tom. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Report of Officers:**

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Evelyn shared that she was granted supervisor's privileges to speak with County board regarding the \$11.8 million in stimulus money they are receiving. Evelyn requested \$20,000 for the next five years because we've received \$0 from Washington County. Evelyn indicated she sat at boat launch and folks are coming from many different places to use our lake. Hoping to

hear back from them over next month or so. Working hard to get funding from State and County.

Lynn W spoke about lake management. Shared that lake is looking good. Indicated that DEC is getting us permits early/on time. Shared that the company doing the treatments is now the one creating an issue. Survey around the lake to identify the weed beds didn't happen but should have. Regarding fish dying, it's because of lack of oxygen when water turns over. Additionally, there's an article on our website. DEC previously responded that there's nothing new with that but same problem as in the past. Sheila indicated that air boat wasn't here this year for chemical treatment; different boat was used. Reminder that if you have weeds in front of house; contact Sheila and she'll come by for an assessment.

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#### **Report of Committees:**

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Nominating - Joanne

Harvesting – Tim

Harvester in the water for about three weeks fulfilling open waters / town requirements. Tried to get curly pond weed; chemicals have done a good job at eradicating them. Starting customers on Wednesday of this week. Expecting to get customer orders done by July 4<sup>th</sup>. Today we have 160 customers; very busy doing our best efforts. Also handling the extra frontage orders. Currently training a new person (Tom) running the harvester. Contact Tim with any questions.

Newsletter/Website – John

Reported out that newsletter is slated to come out sometime next week to incorporate some of the recent information shared. Always looking for content, so if you have ideas please share that.

Advertising program – have typically 15 merchant ads per issue; not a lot of money but does help offset cost. After spring edition we had seven subscribers terminate, five resigned and one new advertiser joined. John asked if there is a local provider who does good work, reach out to them to inquire if they'd like to advertise. If you don't want to reach out, let John know and he will connect with them.

Website – John indicated more people are getting comfortable doing things online, like the 50/50 raffle. Netted \$1,300 or so from that raffle. Some still like to do it the "old school way" but now folks have the online option too. Don't need a PayPal account to

do the online transactions...it's just the processor. Doing the ordering online is a good audit option for us. Doing orders online is an automated/timely option for the CLIA – streamlines the process.

Comment about newsletter – please consider getting it electronically. Contact Nancy, Evelyn or anyone on the Board to opt into the electronic version only. Cost of mailing is about \$1.70 per piece.

#### CSLAP – Lynn W

Testing done every two weeks for oxygen in lake, various chemicals, etc. – goes to state lab and the data is available publicly. Lake resident Stephen Gaughran will assist with even more testing. Have already addressed multiple streams. Lynn Clauer coordinates the testing. Anyone interested in joining the team should connect with Lynn or Lynn.

John F indicated that on our website (under “lake reports”) there is a host of information available publicly about the health of our lake.

#### Membership – Peg

Happy to report that there are 20 new members this year. Membership ice cream social on July 11<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 pm. This event will also be family friendly with fun prizes. Great opportunity to meet and get reconnected with other lake families.

Requested questions to be used during Trivia Night to be submitted to Peg.

#### Spillway – Gene

Spillway working fine. Doing his best to keep water at best levels – not too high and not too low. Checks lake daily and adjusts as needed. Anyone interested in seeing what the process entails should get in touch with Gene. Question was asked whether or not Gene has a backup and he indicated he does have two back-ups.

Question about whether level of lake now is where it will stay. Gene indicated that where it is now is the perfect height. Gene indicated that there's an approximate 24 hour lapse in time for lake level to “re-set” across the lake.

Lynn W indicated she signed up for a program to have lake level checked by satellite but hasn't gotten a call back from the program contact.

#### Water Chestnut Picking – Gene

Gene announced that the first pick will be June 28<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am starting in Baldwin's Cove. All are welcome to come and assist. Very invasive weeds which are important to be remediated.

#### Communications - John

John provided a quick summary of the status of various communications efforts. The June 12, 2021 Board Minutes reflect the full report by John.

#### Buildings and Grounds – Tom

Last year had expansion tank issues which were solved when tank moved underground. Reported out that the floor was sanded, washed and painted. Regarding the dock, reported that it's in and planning to clean up this area moving forward...beachfront to be cleaned, picnic table to be purchased. If anyone has contact who can make 8 foot table at about \$200, let us know.

Tom shared that Lynn P generously donated a new BBQ grill for the pavilion. Anyone having a private event will bring their own propane tank; anyone hosting a CLIA event on behalf of the CLIA will use the CLIA's provided propane tanks.

Currently working on identifying solution for handicapped bathroom.

#### Promotions – Tom

Evelyn pointed out that Tom has donated his profits from the online store back to the CLIA.

Have online stores only so you that CLIA doesn't have to carry inventory which doesn't sell. Appreciate everyone's support of online store. Just closed out a store earlier this week. All profit from the sales is donated back to CLIA by Tom and his company. Store will be reopened in July and then orders will be available in August.

#### Social – Lynn L

Lynn indicated thanks to everyone who stepped up to organize events this year. Of course trying to raise money for lake but also a social event to bring people together. Have a beautiful Clubhouse and donated (by the Roach family) Pavilion to host events. Creative ideas like birding class, ice cream social, etc. will help bring people together again and raise funds at the same time. This year's ice cream social will have a team of

folks who are organizing kids' activities, adult activities, and all family friendly. Lynn J hosts a hula hoop fitness class on Monday mornings – about 10 members come each week. Lynn is offering to add additional dates to do more dates outside of the typical work day hours so others can participate. Lynn's husband makes all the hula hoops and she provides them for the participants if they don't have their own. Hoping folks will get more involved. Calendar of events and sign-up sheets were posted on back board of Clubhouse. We appreciate donations to CLIA and food pantry donations. Last Friday night there was a fun cook-out by the "band wives" as a fundraiser. The Felicetti's signed up to host Bingo on August 13<sup>th</sup>. At the Bingo night there will also be food and prizes so please share your ideas. There's a trivia group getting together. There will be Christmas in July. Chicken BBQ fundraiser also coming up. Joanne is putting together a wine tasting event. Sign up, have ideas? Please participate and help our lake. John F keeps our website calendar updated all the time.

#### Insurance – Ed

Ed indicated we have a current policy and a general liability rider for our building and equipment.

Question about whether or not that included insuring the kitchen and Ed confirmed that yes it does; the kitchen is also insured as a functioning space.

#### Database – Nancy

There are 265 voting members. We have good information from membership applications so all is working well.

### **Old or unfinished business**

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None

### **New business**

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Question about blue/green algae – how does that get monitored? Lynn W indicated it gets monitored by CSLAP program. DEC website would have the alert. Most algae is fine, but the blue/green is typically heat related and could be a bigger issue.

Evelyn reminded everyone that the CLIA website has an incredible amount of information, budget, minutes, etc; all totally transparent. Please use it as a resource. We appreciate your membership and active participation in the CLIA.

Will do another online 50/50 – to be picked at the Chicken BBQ – our big end of season celebration. Looking for anyone looking to donate raffle items – please get in touch with Evelyn.

### **Adjournment**

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Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Evelyn; Ed Costello seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Meeting was adjourned at 1:41 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo*

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CLIA Secretary