

**Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association
General Membership Meeting July 13, 2024**



Meeting called to Order at 10:07AM by the President, Lynn LeCours.

Officers and Directors present: President Lynn LeCours, Vice President Peggy Pahoulis, Kathy Gaughran (serving as Interim Secretary), Rick Ryan (serving as Interim Treasurer), JoAnne Bonacker, Gene Henry, Tom LeCours, Bob Reilly, Cheryl Stanford-Smith, Marie Dumas, Lynn Jackson, Star Schmalzer, Sheila Rappazzo

Directors present by proxy: None

Directors and Officers not present: Karen Ryan, Lisa Zibella

Guests: Ashley Leemans, Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
John Felicetti for newsletter, data management and website.

Ashley provided a presentation for the health of Cossayuna Lake modeled after Vermont's Lake Wise Program. The program will start next Summer with grant funding.

Vermont's program scores shoreline owners homes as "Lake Friendly". Owners can win an award from Vermont DEC. The program also has High School interns from the Lake Education and Action Program speak with owners.

Next steps for Washington County program:

Shoreline home owners contact Ashley to look at shoreline on their property. She will review the shoreline and provide a written report with suggestions for shoreline plant buffers and infiltration steps.

Upon assessment of all the properties, Ashley will apply for grants to implement the county program.

Assessments will start May/June 2025. The County will need at least 5 properties to sign up to get the program started.

Membership inquired if other concerns were being looked at by the county...runoff into the lake from farm animals, dogs and geese; streams running into lake; septic replacement program.

Cheryl asked about handicapped/veterans lake access to shoreline. Will this be included in the Washington County Lake Wise program? Ashley responded that it would not but will be determined on individual basis. County will bring in other people with expertise to evaluate.

Minutes: Motion to accept minutes of the previous General Membership meeting held July 8, 2023 moved by Lynn Wilbur and seconded by Joanne Bonacker. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Members asked about General Income and Lake Management. Rick responded General Income comes from Building rental, Events and Social. Lake Management comes from donations, NYS grants, Argyle and Greenwich village contributions. There is concern the Lake Management fund will be short in 2026.

Motion to accept by Peg Pahoulis, and seconded by Joanne Bonacker. Motion approved.

Report of Committees

Nominations: JoAnne Bonacker reported the Election Meeting will be held on August 24th. Slated for reelection are:

Officers (1 year term)

- Lynn LeCours for President
- Peggy Pahoulis for Vice President
- Kathy Gaughran for Secretary
- Rick Ryan for Treasurer

Directors (3 Year term)

- Marie Dumas
- Gene Henry
- Lynn Jackson
- Karen Ryan

In addition, there is a vacant Director position we are seeking to fill the remainder of a 1 year term.

Floor is open for nominations until the end of this Membership meeting.

Nominations from the floor:

Tracy Schmalzer nominated Tom Atkin for the vacant 1 year Director term. Tom accepted.

Gene Henry nominated Jeff Jackson for the vacant 1 year Director term. Jeff was not present to accept.

JoAnne thanked all of the Board members who donate so much of their time to our association.

Membership:

Bob Riley reported we currently have 363 paid members out of the prior year's count of 400. Dues are \$80.

We are currently contacting old members to encourage them to re-join.

We always need and appreciate volunteers! We have also installed a suggestion box and look forward to your ideas.

Discussion regarding ideas for increasing funds from Membership included suggestions for Lifetime memberships as well as Endowment/Trust to the Lake Association since we are a 501C3.

Spillway: Gene Henry reported the Spillway is closed. Rain is causing 1 inch water overflow, but otherwise all good.

Newsletter: John Felicetti informed the membership that over the past 3-4 years we have reduced the number of printed copies from 400 to 150. This helps lighten the coordination efforts of the Board to print, stuff envelopes and go to the post office. He encouraged members to go online.

Building and Grounds: Tom LeCours thanked Charlie Rappazzo, Jeff Jackson, Marie Dumas and all the volunteers for their help on the building and shoreline. Lynn Wilbur asked to put rubber protection on a corner of the new dock, it is very sharp.

Insurance: Tom LeCours reported all good.

Promotions: Tom LeCours reported Walton's donates all proceeds from the online store back to the Lake Management fund, which amounts to \$600 - \$700 each time the online store is open.

Website/FB/Database: All good. John Felicetti encouraged members to join the CossayunaLake and CossayunaLIA Facebook pages. The website/database is secure. If members phone, address or email changes please go to "Contact Us" on the website and send an email. John will update your information in the database.

Social: Marie Dumas, Karen Ryan, JoAnne Bonacker, Bob Reilly and Star Schmalzer are the Social committee. Marie reported a very successful Ladies Paint Night, Bingo, 70s Party, and Boat Parade.

Members asked about having more Bingo events. Marie stated that this event relies on volunteers and we only have enough volunteers to do that and all our other events once per

season. For Bingo we do not give any cash prizes, so rely on donations. We stay within the NYS guidelines. More frequent games may give the appearance of gambling.

Upcoming events:

- Trivia
- Chicken BBQ/Raffle Basket
- Lakesiders

We are looking for volunteers to help clean up CLIA shoreline on July 21st.

If you have new ideas for Social events, please let us know.

Education: Lynn Jackson and Sheila Rappazzo thanked Ashley for the Lake Wise presentation. Lynn also reported the Hoola Hoop classes donated \$135 to Lake Management and food to the Community Food Pantry.

Harvesting: Tom LeCours is the new chair for Harvesting, replacing Gene Henry who took over running the harvester for John Ryan. Unfortunately, John had to resign due to family obligations.

Gene reported it has been a difficult transition for the Harvester Team with the learning curve to run the harvester, mechanical difficulties for the harvester and the truck needed a new water pump. The harvesting crew is trying to get to the paying customers in a timely manner but the harvesting grant requires a certain amount of hours harvesting the open waters of the lake. Gene noted there is a schedule for harvesting starting early June. He asked members to sign up early because if you sign up late June/July you will have to wait for the next harvester cycle. Harvester loops around the lake each month, it is scheduled for Turtle Cove and north end next week, it will be back to the south end at the end of July.

Members asked about the health of the harvester –

The harvester was purchased used and refurbished 7 years ago from Saratoga Lake for \$125,000. The Board is working with Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner on a grant for a new harvester.

Herbicide: Sheila Rappazzo reported the Southern Niaid weed is a native weed and is very difficult to harvest because it is so fine. The DEC will not allow treatment after June 15 due to fisheries as well as restrictions on culinary water use and swimming for 24 hours following treatment.

CSLAP: Sheila Rappazzo reported the water is tested every 2 weeks, water samples are collected and sent to the State. There is now a new Administrator at the State department and the revised reports are not useful. Lynn Wilbur pointed out we have made many gains in maintaining the lake over the last 20 years. Some owners have installed Aqua Thrusters on their shorelines, this can be very helpful, just be sure they are properly positioned.

Email Blasts: N/A

Old or Unfinished Business: Nominations for the 2024/2025 slate of officers and directors was closed. Motion approved by members.

New Business: A kayak was stolen and has been reported to the Sheriff.

Adjournment: 11:53AM