

## WCLA General Meeting     June 23, 2018   Caroga Chapel

Board members present: Don Hopper, Chris Cram, Nancy Zeiser, Don Shearer, Ellen Wright, Jed Potocar, Al Zeina, Jim Hogan, Kookie Warden, Dick Stahl

31 members, Guest Speakers: Gene Centi, Linda Gilbert

Don called the meeting to order at 10:08 He asked the board members to stand and introduce themselves.

Don announced we will continue our flare program and they could be picked up by members at the end of the meeting. The annual Meeting and Chicken BBQ will be held July 14<sup>th</sup> at Nick Stoner. For paid membership, the first dinner will be half price.

Survey results: There were 117 responses. 93% supported raising the dues to \$25. The board is still in discussion about dues increase.

Chris Cram spoke about the exciting new initiative involving WCLA, ECLPA and the Caroga Lake Fish and Game Club. Representatives from each unit have gotten together and have formed The Joint Task Force of the Caroga Lakes for the betterment of the lakes. They met last fall and this spring and have met with their respective boards to gain approval. This brings together about 600 members strong. The primary goal is to combine their funds in one pot and buy fish for the lakes. They all have state permits to stock. Then, collectively, they can address other common issues with the combined strength of all three associations.

The comments part of the survey showed concerns about weeds and town issues.

Gene Centi who is in charge of the weed harvesting spoke about the progress being made. Last year over 4000 bushels of weeds were harvested. This year with the town board adding funds, in only 3 weeks they have harvested over 1300 bushels. They, by state law, are only allowed to harvest invasive species and in the case of the 2 lakes that is Eurasian Milfoil. Last fall on 9/20/2017, a lake survey was done by Larry Eichler from the state. His complete report is available at the town hall and Don has the part about West Caroga. The results of the mapping of the weed beds indicated less than 2% of the weeds in West Caroga is Eurasian Milfoil. The

other weeds in the lake are native weeds. Some of those weeds have increased and some decreased in amounts. The results from this survey is that the high diversity of weeds indicates the lake is quite healthy. A question was asked about other possible methods of removing Milfoil. By law, chemicals and weed eating fish cannot be used, because these lakes are not contained, they have an out flow to creeks and streams. Mr. Centi also mentioned CSLAP. It is a program of testing the lake. We last participated in 2008. It is a 5 year program. Mr. Centi emphasized he can be reached if you have questions or concerns at : [gcenti52@gmail.com](mailto:gcenti52@gmail.com) or 518 835-2681 .

Don invited our Town Clerk, Linda Gilbert to speak about town issues from the survey. Linda, who has served over 20 years brought town directories and Summer 2018 booklets with her. She said the Town Board needs to hear concerns and problems of all residents. She wants residents to feel free to call her anytime.

A question was raised about town blight. Our Code Enforcement Officer is part time and Linda stated they are looking for a certified person to help. A suggestion was made that maybe a certified firefighter would be interested. Someone asked for the definition of blight which she read from the 2018 Town of Caroga Directory. It is a difficult situation to solve.

A question was raised about the status of Sherman's. The last information was that 2 proposals had been made and it was a possibility they could be combined. No decision or direction has been taken on the project so far.

Someone asked about East Shore Road and the possibility of it becoming one way. Discussion of pros and cons took place. Linda suggested a petition be written up and signed by interested parties and presented to the board. There is an Open Door Town Hall meeting on July 24, at the school, where concerns about speed or other issues with the road can be addressed.

Sherman's beach was discussed and how to prevent the illegal swimming and boat launching taking place. The Sheriff's office can't enforce without an ordinance. Again, Linda recommended attending Town Board meetings to air concerns.

The golf course would like 2 to 3 volunteers to help out with the grounds. If interested see Steve or call the Pro Shop at 518-835-4220.

Dick Stahl announced the boat parade on July 3, at 4:00 PM. Please meet over by Sherman's. The theme this year is Super Heroes. Invite friends from East Lake to join in, use your jet ski to join in. Please have a sign with your name on it for photos. Bring along plenty of noisemakers like bells, horns and whistles or music! If you are on shore, bring along plenty of noisemakers too! There are lots of prizes and everyone will receive one.

Don adjourned the meeting at 11:40

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Zeiser

Secretary