Present: Mary Randall, Nancy Girling, Dan Gorke, Pete Pelone, Doug Kaufman, Bob Hauersman, Tony Petrongolo, Micki Kuttler, Dee Dee Foran

Dan called the meeting to order and took a roll call. Mary indicated the minutes from 11-13-20 needs to be revised and she will send out tomorrow for comment and approval.

**Presidents Report –** Mary is the ALA executive assistant this year. The Alliance is a voice for all lakes in the Adirondacks. Current topic of concern is the Transport Law that has been in existence since 2014. Boaters need to take reasonable precaution before entry to lake for invasive species. The law was good for 5 years & was extended for 1 year by Senator Kaminsky. Council is pushing that the DeCon stations in NY be mandatory. There are so many questions on how we would enforce a mandatory decontamination station. The alliance will be having another meeting, and she is looking for input from our board. We support more teeth in the current law. Tony is concerned about funding because the state will not support us with funding for mandatory stations. Nancy suggested that we close the boat launch when there is no staff is in place. Cannot control other private boat launches. We can’t man the boat launches 24/7. Nancy said that Lake George effectively handles their boat launches – they have 2 DEC state owned launches. Mary said they were talking about tagging boats at DeCon Station. This would be something in between mandatory & optional. Tony said that we can get boater’s attention if there was a significant fine. Pete said the only fine he knows of lately on the lake is where a steward noticed a trailer that was carrying water chestnut and called the DEC/Rangers came quickly. They located them and issued a citation. Nothing seems to happen – no enforcement from DEC. Mary asked if local law enforcement could patrol and then publicize offenders. It’s difficult to enforce. We are ahead of other lakes in the area. Exit 17 station on the Northway is getting little to no utilization. Mary will give us an update on the next meeting.

**Environmental Update** – nothing to report

**Treasurers Report** – Nancy reported on Financials - Actual from 2019 is $13,000 more expense than income. This is not sustainable. We were expecting a $6,000 deficit this year. State Grant will come 2020 to offset some of 2019 expenses. Not sure of the exact amount. Income was a little more than budgeted because of calendar sales & membership. Town of Schroon did not contribute the 1/3 for DeCon. The annual gap is about $5,000. Our total cushion – cash balance is *about* $53,000.

Nancy said we are splitting the cost of the DeCon with Schroon 50% and this doesn’t seem fair. Mary notes that any grant or funding that comes to the town of Schroon, we will also get 50% - so it works both ways.

Doug- track boats at the DeCon station to see where they are launching. If most of the boats are going to Schroon, we should not pay 50%. Need to gather this data. Get the stewards to ask informal questions and log the data. We should have this in standard script, but that is driven by DEC/Paul Smith. Annual Report from Paul Smith is published in the spring. Their line of questioning is not where the boats are coming from or going. Micki said the stewards could have an informal survey to ask where they came from.

Pete: problem is that Paul Smith & DEC is focused on public education. PLA focus is to eliminate invasive species. Bob? has a meeting APIPP Water Management - nature conservatory next Monday. He will share notes from that meeting.

**Budget** – Pete: Review copy of Budget 2020. Finance committee met and created preliminary 2020 budget. They need input from the Board and major committees to fill in the blanks. Any grants planned for 2020? Mary said no one is working on grants.

Restock promotional materials – low inventory. Membership committee does this. Mary said estimate would be about $500. Discussion about Square Space - Stripe (3rd party that manages the website transactions and charges a fee.) Doug wants to know the fee? 2.9% on average +.30 per transaction. Doug asked why not use PayPal, it’s cheaper. Mary to compare fees and report back. We would prefer credit card rather than checks/cash because reconciliation is more time consuming/admin records. Capital expenses? Mary said DeCon station tent. $500 budgeted is ½ of the cost. How many days we will use commercial divers for 2020? Nancy said that we compared 2017, 2018, 2019 and we see some zone areas decreasing. We are making progress but it needs to be consistent. It was suggested by Mary to have 15 days and then add more days if we have the money. Not sure that Aqualogic with be available to add harvest days at end of season?

Decision was to budget 20 days and hoping Aqualogic will let us cancel if we don’t need all 20 days. We need to tell them that we want to do 20, but not sure we can afford it. Doug is concerned that we will deplete our reserves – concerned about sustainability. Hoping long-term plan will help determine. This will be a perpetual cost, but not sure what that dollar number will be. Ideally, have a person responsible for each zone. Check with Aqualogic on how flexible they will be with the contract. We may need some contingency days for the lower lake/Knox Beach. Aqualogic submitted bid this year for Schroon Lake. It was noted that Schroon now has volunteer divers. We need to look at viable venders for the future. Aqualogic has remained consistent with cost. We want to maintain relationship so be honest with them upfront.

Boat wash staffing –Keep same schedule as last year, Memorial Day to Labor Day, 7 days per week. 2 stewards at 30 hr. per week. $11.58 per hour.

Mary asked if there were any assumptions on the income side of the budget. Pete said we will keep the same numbers from last year. Income has been consistent. We would like to see more grants, fundraising, & membership. Nancy & Doug suggested that membership needs to be aware that our expenses exceed our income every year.

**Newsletter/Communications –** Nancy suggested that we educate the community of our expenses by sending a letter to members. It was also suggested that we educate in the next few newsletters by telling the story of Loon & Eagle Lake out of control. Visually see what happens if we don’t harvest. How can members help? Dive, snorkel, manage a zone, identify invasives, and donate money. Pete suggested that we publish financials to members. Micki wants to report on water quality in the next issue in February. Google group will help with communications. The May issue should call for membership donations and dues.

**Membership** – changes have been made to membership on Website. We are now tracking individual vs. family membership. Mary suggested Nov 1 – Oct 31 be the membership annual year. Everyone feels like it will confuse people. Keep it simple and have a calendar year membership.

A topic suggestion for our August Meeting - presentation on what is working with other lakes on membership & fundraising.

**Long Term Planning** - Bob Hoping we will have less transportation of invasives if we do a long term plan. How fast does milfoil populate? Proposal was distributed to the board for consideration. We need to gather information. Nancy & Doug agreed to help.

**Lake Management** – Tony ALAP testing vs. CSLAP. We do ALAP and this is sufficient for our needs. Schroon is asking if we would get better cost by combining with them on CSLAP. Septic systems should be monitored by town and educate our community. Warren County is looking to do E.coli testing with transfer of property ownership. He will continue to research

**Fundraising Committee** – over (100) 2020 Calendars have been sold. We should continue because it has been successful. Golf Tournament is scheduled for Aug 1. Mary is looking at Knights of Columbus building for after party seating and Emeralds for catering. Look into having the Golf Tournament at a different course next year since most people participating come from Albany or down state. We should look at ways to tap into visitors at Yard sale or Craft sale. Look for fundraising that builds community. Dee Dee will send out an email to members to seek volunteers on the committee and plan the first meeting.

Old business - none

New business - none

Announcements **Next meeting February 19 @ 7:00pm**

Dan Anything else?

Nancy motion to adjourn at 8:43pm.