**Present:** Mary Randall, Nancy Girling, Dan Gorke, Pete Pelone, Bob Hauersman, Tony Petrongolo, Dee Dee Foran

Dan called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and took a roll call. Dan also noted 2 errors to the January minutes that will be corrected. Motion to approve minutes by Dan & Nancy 2nd.

**Presidents Report** Mary provided copies of letters from SLA and ESSLA that were sent to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation regarding a fishery study on Schroon Lake. Fishermen are complaining that the fishing has declined. The Steering Committee is asking the State to pay for a study and wants PLA to support this. The question for the board: is there a need or desire for Paradox Lake to do the same? Pete - No background or clear indication what exactly the problem is in these letters. Not sure that Paradox has the same problem and we don’t have much data to support it. Decision was to hold off on doing anything now and see what kind of response Schroon gets.

Save the Date - ALA Symposium at Paul Smith College July 30, 2020 – Great opportunity to educate ourselves, and it is very worthwhile.

Strategic planning – suggest we meet with Mark Granger & Roger Friedman regarding what funding is available for PLA from the State, County & Town perspective. We need to collect information before we go to the meeting so that we are more knowledgeable. Board proposed the best time for meeting would be late April.

The Town of Schroon and SLA has been talking to the environmental planner for Warren County and trying to get his counterpart in Essex County to get grant assistance from the County. Maybe we should connect with other Essex County lakes to try and get support.

Pete – what is the status of the grant for boat decontamination? Has the town even received the money from the state? Mary will get some clarification. Nancy says there is no transparency in the grant process. We need to understand the process so that the above mentioned meeting in April will help us determine where the money is coming from and how it is split up.

**Secretary report** – Nothing to report

**Environmental Update** – nothing to report

**Treasurers Report** – No financial statement in Matt’s absence.

**Finance** Pete - proposed budget for 2020 has been distributed. Finance committee struggles with the cost of boat wash station, invasives, and harvesting. We need a vote from PLA to approve the Aqualogic Contract. Nancy spoke to Dominick and he was flexible with us to cancel days if needed. Aqualogic Contract says up to 20 days. She explained that we could not

commit to 20 days because of the budget. The proposed **Budget currently has 15 days** **baseline** - If we have significant income from fundraising or contributions, then we can add days if needed. Pete is concerned that we need to cut back. 3 to 4 years we could run out of money if we don’t get grants or other funding. Bob says we should have a better understanding after the Strategic Study is complete. Mary questioned membership promotional website line item on proposed budget – seems to be a double count because it is also included under administrative fees. This should be changed, but only $300 so she suggests we should approve budget as is.

Mary has signed and sent contract with deposit payment. Mary will email the Aqualogic contract to all board members for a vote of approval. Nancy motioned to approve Budget, Bob 2nd . **2020 Budget was approved**.

**Newsletter/Communications –** Mary said 2020 Communication Plan was distributed. Plan is to educate people in the newsletter, emails & video online. Try to drive larger donations. Also, craft fair and Golf tournament. Micki will work on this as she feels better.

**Membership** – May is membership month. Dan - Target 2019 members, former members, new potential members who own property around the lake. Circulate a member list to the board to check if neighbors and friends could be potential members. Board to try to approach obvious people within our reach. We should share the “state of the lake” in a letter for promotion. One pager that is easy to digest to hand to people and include in promotional letter.

**Long Term Planning** Bob - Had conversations APIPP, Brant Lake Asso, SLA, AWI, Loon Lake Asso, Eagle Lake Asso – gathering information at this time. How do we go about remediation for future? What kind of fundraising, negotiations, lobbying do we want to do? Bob is encouraged with the few discussions that he has had. Tony – APA is cautious and does not want to approve use of herbicide because of rare plant species. Chemicals could be a potential solution for the narrows and east end of lake. Loon Lake funds their association from Loon Lake Park District. We should find out more about this. Some lakes have special tax districts for weed management. We should explore this further.

**Lake Management** Tony - Alexa is working on a report and hopes to have final by Spring. She had suggested an Angler Survey in the draft plan. Will explore more. Dr. Stich is her advisor in Master’s program. Final plan should be ready in the Spring.

**Invasives** Nancy, nothing new

**Fundraising Committee** – Dee Dee has a conference call scheduled for 2/24 – initial plan is to sell or raffle something at the SLA Craft booth. Also, looking for larger fundraiser in late

summer or fall. She will report after the meeting with 4 other members. Nancy suggested Employer Match possibility - employee’s charitable donation. We are setting a goal of at least $5,000 this summer.

**Old business** - none

**New business** – Suggest that we meet in person in May with no board meeting in April.

**Announcements** May 23 is Annual Membership meeting**.** Dominick from Aqualogic has offered to come to the annual meeting.Mary will approach Town supervisor to speak**.**

March Board meeting is 3/11/20 @7:00 conference call

Pete motion to adjourn, Nancy 2nd

Adjourn at 8:16pm.