

February 25, 2015
Town of Caroga Municipal Offices

Roll Call: Supervisor Ottuso – absent
Councilman Sullivan – here
Councilman Frasier – absent
Councilman Sturchio – here
Councilman Glenn – absent

Councilman Sullivan called the meeting to order with the flag salute. He introduced Brian Grisi and Robyn Burgess from the APA and Shelia Yates, Caroga Code Officer. He pointed out that there was not a quorum of the Town Board present so there would be no decisions made. Mr. Sullivan also requested speakers to limit their remarks to 5 minutes each.

There were approximately 50 members of the public in attendance as well as Town Attorney David Jung and representatives from DEC, Fulton County Sheriff's Office and the New York State Troopers.

Ms. Yates opened by stating that the meeting was to discuss placement of and permitting for docks along the shore of West Caroga Lake and she reviewed some of the history surrounding the area and the use of the shoreline.

Members of the public spoke about their concerns regarding whether owners of property behind the East Shore Road had rights to place docks in front of existing camps/homes. Mr. Gilbert discussed the historical way of determining where docks were placed within each of the "plots"; ie, Pinkster, Fleemans and Lake Shore/Lake Side (?) plots. He stated that traditionally there had to be an agreement between the affected property owners and the person who wanted to place a dock. There had to be 51% of the owners in agreement.

Many residents voiced their concerns that allowing docks would devalue their property and make the lake frontage look like a marina. Ms. Yates assured them that the Town had their concerns in mind and did not intend to allow that to occur.

It was noted by several individuals that certain deeds gave some rights and others listed other rights. The individual deeds differ and may differ from the older deeds for the same property with regard to some of these rights. Mr. Grisi from the APA reminded those in attendance that the APA regulations began in 1973 and docks placed before then were "grandfathered" where any new docks did need a permit from the Town and had to conform to current Town regulations. The Town has a legal right to issue a permit for a dock. It becomes a civil matter in the courts between the property owners in each "plot" after that. Owners need to research their deeds because sometimes the wording regarding lake usage for bathing, etc., was left out of the newer deeds. If there are wetlands in the water involved, then APA approval is needed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judy Aldinger
Deputy Town Clerk