**Introductory Comments at the Open Board Meeting**

**Zoom Meeting – 11AM - September 10, 2022**

**Raymond Kozma, Board Chair**

*Getting back on track following significant disruptions to our club’s life.*

In the past almost three years, our “normal” lives have been significantly disrupted by two major events:

First, the COVID-19 pandemic and worldwide health emergency has upended almost every aspect of our lives and lives of people in every country of the world. It is estimated than nearly nine million people have died worldwide due to COVID, and over one million have died in the United States to date. While COVID is still a serious concern for everyone, we can say that now, over two and half years later and because of vaccinations and booster shots and improvements in medical treatment, …only now are we slowly getting back to a more normal way-of-life. All of you, individually and with your families and at work, have known first-hand the disturbances to our course of life caused by COVID. Our life as a club, with Camp Nawakwa, had also been significantly altered. And we can say that, only this summer, have we started to get back to a more normal functioning of camp-life. As a reminder, we ask anyone who is planning on coming to camp to do first a self-test at home to make sure no one tests positive.

I offer today a special Thank You to Don Gable who is resigning as Camp Chair. In 2018 he generously agreed to assume the Camp Chair position following the resignation of the former chair, Kim Waldhauer. No one, of course, could have anticipated the extra complications brought to the Camp Chair position by advent of COVID. We are grateful to him for his vigilance in watching over Camp Nawakwa during this crisis time: Working to keep camp open during the pandemic; being proactive when he saw anything needed, for example, making sure damaged trees were cut down before they fell onto cabins; working with the Department of Health to formulate our Bathing Beach Safety plan that allows our waterfront to be open. The Camp Chair position, due to our need to operate and maintain camp, has always been a challenging and significant role, made more so these past few years due to the pandemic and NYS DOH changes. We are grateful to Don for “sticking with the job” during this difficult and, at times, frustrating period.

The second major event that disrupted our lives as a club was the unexpected need to start a lawsuit against ADK who wanted to dissolve the Chapter. The lawsuit ending on March of this year with our disassociation from the ADK. Guy Lingley, in his presentation, will walk us through the timeline and details of those events.

Re-forming and renewing ourselves as the *Nawakwa Outdoor Association* entails a great deal of work, for example, amending our lease with the Park to indicate our new name, creating new Bylaws, and updating policies and procedures. Later in our meeting, we will have time answer questions, take comments and suggestions, and discuss further all the areas we need to update in our moving forward as NOANY.

* Ray Kozma, Board Chair