

Beginnings: Happy Days Are Here Again... Clubhouse Regained

At the Annual Meeting of April 13, 1935, new Commodore George Parsons, Treasurer Calvin Vary, and Lyman Stuart were appointed to a committee in order to solicit interest from an individual or group in repurchasing the former Club property. The Club itself had committed to pay \$300 per year for its use. At that time Commodore Parsons was also a member of the New York State Legislature, and as such was privy to information regarding when the state was prepared to sell off properties. Thus, as matters would have it, and with little information advertised as to time and place (so we are told), the former Club property was sold at an auction on July 9, 1935. Acting on behalf of the Club, Lyman Stuart bought the property "on the steps of the County Courthouse in Lyons" for \$1900, making possible the Club we know today.

Shortly after the purchase, a Sodus Bay Realty Corporation was formed consisting of the following members: Lyman Stuart, Charlotte Bloomer, Robert A.S. Bloomer, Paul D. Newton, Steven Comstock and Richard Comstock. The Corporation was subscribed on July 19, 1935, with the intent to secure the Club property "for those who use and value it." The Corporation remained in effect until 1969, during which time the above mentioned members and their successors, were instrumental in adding land and waterfront to the original property particularly during the 1940's.

The first Annual Meeting in the Club House, now the property of the Sodus Bay Realty Corporation, was held on April 11, 1936. Twenty-two of the current fifty-five members were present. Taxes, insurance, maintenance fees, and an annual rental fee of \$10 to the corporation were paid. A change to the By-Laws was voted giving the Trustees firm control of Club finances. Rehabilitating the building was a huge task as described by Charlotte Bloomer:

"There were layers and layers of dirt and grease on the walls. Tanks of water were dragged out, propped up on bricks so fires could be built under them to heat the water. Everyone worked who could, others contributed furniture and curtains. Painting the outside of the Clubhouse was most challenging, as we weren't experts and some things needed touch up later.... And the bar was open that afternoon."

Rosemary Willette