



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784-0037 • (860) 354-6928 • FAX (860) 350-5611

## Minutes of Regular Meeting October 2, 2019

### Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
G. Linkletter	Sherman
J. Wodarski	New Milford
M. Toussaint	New Milford
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
J. Main	New Fairfield (8:37PM)
D. Rosemark	Danbury (electronic to 9:27PM)

### Absent:

D. Cushnie	Sherman
E. Siergiej	Danbury
C. Robinson	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford
B. Licht	New Fairfield

M. Howarth, Executive Director  
J. Neil Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Education  
F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator (electronic)  
N. Mellas –CLAMP Assistant Chief of Marine Enforcement

Recorder: J. Neil Stalter

Guests: two members of the public

It was noted that during the meeting the recorder batteries died and was not noticed until the Executive session – so there may not be a full recording of this meeting.

Chairman, Phyllis Schaer, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:31 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the guests

**Public Comment:** Khris Hall, Selectman from New Fairfield spoke to the delegates of the importance of maintaining a balance regarding the weed mapping of Candlewood Lake and how New Fairfield supports the weed mapping report from the consultant who had done the mapping for over ten years i.e. Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)/B. Bugbee. This should continue for balance there need to be a voice outside of FirstLight Power based on this and the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen from the CLA delegates from the Town of New Fairfield, they allocated from a fund that had been put together over two years ago for the lake the amount of seven thousand (\$7,000.00) dollars contingent upon the CLA and two other member towns contributing to the cost. She urged the delegates to support this initiative for CAES to do the weed mapping.

**Secretary's Report:** *Secretary, Jerry Murphy made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 14, 2019 meeting as written, seconded by Bill Lohan; motion was voted with all in favor. Motion carried and minutes have been accepted as written.*

**Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol:** Assistant Chief Nick Mellas advised it has been a good, busy season and only one shift was not filled all season but it was an overlapping shift so there was no loss of coverage. There were a number of incidents including the theft of three PWC's. Scheduled patrols will end October 13<sup>th</sup>. Recruitment of new LPO's is in the process, collecting resumes and applications, will review to determine who will be interviewed. Discussion followed on the incidents on the lake including an assault on Sand Island that was handled by the DEEP officer as CLAMP is limited to Boating Law. Noise has been a problem and there were a number of noise complaint calls that the officers responded to. Assistant Chief Mellas noted that there has been some concern among the officers regarding the activities on the lake and the amount of time that it takes for backup to arrive. Discussion followed. It was noted that the CLA might want to consider looking into allowing all officers, not just POST certified, to carry a firearm. Joe Wodarski noted that LPO's had carried a firearm for many years and there is a Statue that allows for just that. It was noted that it was the CEO's of the five towns that did not want the liability of the Non-POST officers carrying a firearm, the idea was to have a POST and a Non-Post LPO ride together – that does not work when you do not have enough POST certified officers. This is an item that will be looked at with the Public Safety committee in the off season. It was noted that the perception changes when the officer in uniform has a firearm, sometime just that can diffuse a situation. Selectman Hall added that calling a meeting of the delegates, CEO's and local legislators might be worth a try.

Assistant Chief Mellas thanked the delegates for their support and let the meeting at 8:40PM.

**Chairman's Report:** Chairman Phyllis Schaer noted that Marianne Gaffey had been appointed to the Public Awareness committee, Steve Kluge has moved to Watershed Management and Joan Archer is on Public Awareness. She asked about the Lake Management Plan Sub Committee meetings, Neil Stalter advised that he is just waiting for all the stakeholder appointments.

Mrs. Shear advised that the 2019 North American Lakes Management Society (NALMS) symposium will be in Burlington Vermont November 11<sup>th</sup> through November 15<sup>th</sup> she, Mr. Howarth and Mr. Stalter will be attending, and she was hoping that Steve Kluge could attend also but was not sure if the cost would be covered in the budget. On Monday evening the CLA took part in the WCSU Lakes symposium on Sterile Grass Carp. Other participants were Lakes Zoar, Lillinonah, Ball Pond and DEEP. It was a very good session.

Mrs. Schaer noted the need to discuss the CAES weed mapping report for 2019 noting that delegate Doug Cushnie, who was not in attendance, had some written concerns indicating that he did not support the spending on this his note was read to the delegates and responded to by the Chairman and is attached at the end of these minutes.

Mrs. Schaer reported on the time line of events from the June discussion in the Executive Committee meeting, speaking with FirstLight, meeting with FirstLight, and receiving the proposal from CAES. She advised that this had been initiated by New Fairfield. Mrs. Schaer advised the Board at the August meeting but did not ask for a motion of support from the CLA at that time. New Fairfield approved seven thousand dollars contingent on at least two other towns and the CLA contributing financial support, at a Town Meeting Sherman did not approve the request for five thousand dollars, but it can be brought back to them at a later date and Brookfield has agreed to providing some support. New Milford and Danbury have not committed to any amount at this time.

Mr. Stalter noted that the CLA does not have the 2018 report from CAES and that it should be included with the 2019 report. Discussion continued. It was asked how much needs to come from the CLA – New Fairfield approved seven thousand, Sherman had put five thousand up for the vote and Brookfield has approved fifteen hundred. There is around thirty-five hundred in the Watershed budget that can be used. Discussion continued and *Mrs. Schaer made a motion that the CLA supports the independent weed mapping by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Report on Candlewood Lake and Squantz Pond as outlined in the proposal from CAES dated May 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 and with the inclusion of the weed mapping data from 2018 for comparison. Seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor except Joe Wodarski and George Linkletter who were opposed. Motion carried.* Bill Lohan made a motion for approval to approach the 5 Lake Towns for support of the twenty thousand (\$20,000.00) dollars unanticipated expense for the CAES Weed Mapping Report, seconded by Jeff Main and voted with all in favor except for Joe Wodarski and George Linkletter who were opposed. Motion carried. Discussion followed on a letter to the Towns to request funds for this.

Mrs. Schaer advised that discussion on a new Boat for the Lake Patrol would be brought up in the spring.

**Vice-Chairman's Report:** Vice Chairman, Mark Toussaint, noted he had nothing at this time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Bill Lohan reported on the Budget vs. Actual for August 31, 2019 noting revenue is at 77% of budget, and expenses year to date are Admin at 23% of budget, Equipment/Facilities 7% of budget there was one line over budget due to Sherman Base improvements that were required by the Fire Marshall, , Public Safety 31% of budget, here the Wage line is 75% and Gas 14% but a large payment was made in September so he will be watching these two lines, , Public Awareness 12% of budget, and Watershed Management 15% of budget, making overall expenses 12% of budget based on the calendar it could be 17% so right now it looks OK. *Mr. Lohan made a motion to transfer from Line #200 Equip/Facil Wage \$1,415.00 to Line #221 Equip/Facil Sherman Base Repairs and Maintenance, seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor. Mr. Lohan made a motion to accept the report of Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for the month ended August 31, 2019 be accepted as presented, seconded by Joan Archer and voted with all in favor. Motion carried and report has been filed for audit.*

Mr. Lohan advised that he has begun working on the 2020/2021 proposed budget and noted that the first pass is fifteen thousand over the present year – he asked that Committee Chairs have their final numbers for the November 6<sup>th</sup> Finance Committee Meeting and it will be discussed at the November CLA meeting.

Mrs. Schaer noted that it looks like the wages for the Lake Patrol will go over in the present budget, the Public Safety Committee Co-Chairman advised that they are taking that into consideration when working on the numbers for 2020/2021.

**Executive Director's Report:** Mark Howarth advised his report is attached to these minutes and then noted the highlights.

- 2020/2021 Proposed Budget
- Admin position search and interviews
- FirstLight Tour of Dike's Point and Rocky River Power Station
- Coffee Meeting with FirstLight
- Brookfield Fire Boat visit
- WCSU Regional Lake Communities Symposium
- Fire Safety Day – October 7<sup>th</sup> in New Milford
- NALMS conference November 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>
- Operations – Buoy removal to begin after October 14<sup>th</sup> and PWC's have been winterized, wrapped and stored for the winter
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**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education:** Neil Stalter noted his report is attached to these minutes. Highlights from his report are:

- Water Quality Monitoring – looking good lake beginning to turn over.
- Just received analyses for July and August working on summaries.
- Representatives from stakeholders (FirstLight, Eversource, DEEP) regarding the Lake Management Plan, still waiting for others.
- Continuing historical data organization
- Community education event on the ARK-II
- A number of events and meetings.
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### **Committee Reports**

**Public Safety Committee:** Joe Wodarski asked for an update on the Boat Wash Station as he had recently been to Lake George and had visited their station. Discussion followed and Mr. Wodarski gave his info to Mr. Stalter. Mrs. Schaer advised that Mr. Stalter is the contact on the decontamination unit.

**Equipment/Facilities Committee:** In the absence of the Committee Chair, there was no report.

**Public Awareness Committee:** George Linkletter, Committee Chairman advised they had new sites for the buffer garden drone video.

**Watershed Management Committee:** Mark Toussaint Committee Chairman noted that the committee had a productive meeting, that he was unable to attend and had nothing to report as it has all been covered previously.

**HR Ad-Hoc-Committee:** Mrs. Schaer noted that the committee would report and discuss the search progress on the candidate for the Admin position. *Bill Lohan made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the hiring of the new Admin person, seconded by Phyllis Schaer, motion voted with all in favor.* The guests left, the recorder was turned off, delegate Dan Rosemark left and the remaining nine delegates as well as members of the HR committee, Mr. Howarth, Mr. Stalter and Mrs. Frattini went into Executive Session at 9:27 PM.

At 10:20PM they came out of Executive Session and *Marianne Gaffey made a motion to approve candidate "C" for the Administrative Coordinator position as discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Joan Archer and voted with all in favor.*

Mrs. Schaer thanked all for their work.

**Old/New Business:** none

With no other business, *Bill Lohan moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Jeff Main. Meeting adjourned at 10:24 P. M.*

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Murphy, Secretary  
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator  
r/b/mh

**Reminder the November regular meeting has been rescheduled to November 20, 2019**

*These minutes are not considered official until they have been approved at The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority.*

**Attachment noted on Page two of these minutes is below:**

CLA Board,

If there is a vote to use \$20k out of the emergency expense fund for a CAES report I am 100% opposed to this vote.

For reasons too numerous to communicate at this point here are a few to highlight.

- I have not seen a written proposal for anything related to this topic at this point after more than a year of discussing this subject.

- No guarantees from the towns that they will contribute. Which ones and how much?
- A study and report is being done and paid for by First Light as they are required by FERC, which was approved by the Technical Committee.
- The emergency request, timing wise, seems invalid because supposedly the data has been gathered and this is for a report not the mapping which would be inappropriate to do in the fall season.
- Discussion I've heard from others include, this demonstrates how the CLA has not worked well and in a collaborative manner with other stakeholders, as well as inaccurate information reported, based on emotion and not facts.

Thanks, Doug Cushnie / Sherman Delegate"

Mrs. Schaer read her response below:

1. The written proposal was received on August 13 and brought to the August 14th board meeting. It was discussed at that meeting, and mention of it appears in the minutes. There was no opposition to the proposal during the discussion.

- No guarantees from the towns that they will contribute. Which ones and how much?

2. This request was initiated by the town of New Fairfield, and discussed by them with Sherman 1st Selectman Don Lowe, who was supportive of the proposal, and also Don Lowe told me he would personally advocate for it, I was also informed of support from Brookfield 1st Selectman Steve Dunn.

New Fairfield called me to notify me of their initiative on August 12th. I brought it to the CLA BOARD on August 14th. I was informed at the last minute by a Sherman resident that it was put on the BOS meeting agenda for August 22. It was not in response to any request by me. I attended the meeting only as a last-minute decision as my husband had just been released from hospital.

- A study and report is being done and paid for by First Light as they are required by FERC, which was approved by the Technical Committee.

3. This study was unanimously rejected by the CLA in our review of the Nuisance Plant Report submitted by NEAR and in response to FLPR request. A First Light employee even provided false statements in order to influence the outcome. The CLA Board voted on and voiced their preference to retain the existing independent consultant and same methodology which was sent to Technical Committee and FERC.

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- The emergency request, timing wise, seems invalid because supposedly the data has been gathered and this is for a report not the mapping which would be inappropriate to do in the fall season.

4. This is not an emergency request, but rather an effort to retain continuity of data collection and pay a fair price for that work, since First Light has rejected our request to

retain the same scientific procedure mapping techniques by the independent scientific resource that has 12 years more experience.

The original 1/3<sup>rd</sup> portion of this funding of \$7,000 was being offered by New Fairfield with the stipulation at least 2 other towns must agree to support and provide funds. I was asked by New Fairfield to clarify Sherman's previously positive support in an effort to assure supplemental funds availability.

- Discussion I've heard from others include, this demonstrates how the CLA has not worked well and in a collaborative manner with other stakeholders, as well as inaccurate information reported, based on emotion and not facts.

5. I am unsure what Stakeholders we have not worked collaboratively with. We have an excellent working relationship with the DEEP, Local Legislators, and local municipalities, as well as WESCON and I have received many positive comments this year.

We on occasion have differing opinions on decisions made by First Light because their corporate decisions are financially profit driven as a hydropower for profit company; with less regard for the municipal requirements & those who live along the developed shoreline or recreate on the Lake.

That is not the same approach taken by the CLA or our Mission. We are charged with providing for Public Safety, and the Environmental preservation of this resource, understanding that the quality of the lake and its recreational value directly impact the financial values of our 5 towns.

Do not accept hear-say as the truth. Statements not made by me have been falsely attributed to me. Please explain what inaccurate information by me has been provided based on emotion?

I would much prefer we work together within the structure of the CLA to resolve the issues of the CLA. ....and support our mission to represent our communities. Phyllis Schaer





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**October 2, 2019**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Monthly Report:

- **Budget:** We have begun working on the budget process, for the 2020-2021 CLA Budget.
- **Admin Search:** We held the final in-person interviews for the admin position at the CLA on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- **Marine Patrol Applications:** We are in the middle of the application process for CLAMP Officer positions. Upon its completion, we will move into the review and interview phase.
- **FLPR Tour:** Prior to the CLA's canceled September meeting, several board members and staff took part in a tour of FirstLight's new Dike Point buffer garden as well as a tour of the Rocky River Power Plant and penstock. We enjoyed our experience and learned a lot at both tour sites.







- **FLPR “Coffee Meetings”:** Neil and I met with Brian and Lauren from FirstLight again in September to continue our dialogue into ways our organization and their company can collaborate on projects that benefit the lake.
- **Brookfield Fire Boat:** We were invited by CLAMP Sgt. Jeff Dunkerton, who is a volunteer with Candlewood Fire Company in Brookfield, to see their new fire boat. He took some members of the CLA out to show us their new capabilities.



- **WCSU Carp Panel:** Neil, Phyllis and I are sitting on a panel at WestConn on September 30<sup>th</sup> for a discussion about sterile grass carp at WestConn's "Fall 2019 Regional Lake Communities Symposium".
- **Fire Safety Day Oct 7th:** The CLA Marine Patrol will once again take part in New Milford Fire Safety Day at Home Depot from 10-1 on October 7<sup>th</sup>, where we will have a CLA table to discuss boating safety with members of the public.
- **NALMS November 11-15th:** Neil and I have signed up to attend the North American Lakes Management Society's Annual Symposium this November in Burlington, Vermont. We look forward to this annual conference and the numerous opportunities to learn about the latest and best lake management practices and science.
- **Operations:** We are moving into the fall season and associated tasks for operations.
  - **Buoys:** We will start the process of removing the hazard and navigation buoys from the lake following the Columbus Day Weekend.
  - **PWCs:** Doug brought our PWCs for winterization and that work has been completed.



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Member Municipalities: *Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman*

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**J. Neil Stalter**

**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education**

**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**Re:** October Meeting: Monthly Report

**Date:** 10/2/19

- **WQ Monitoring 2019:** The fifth water quality monitoring occurred on September 25<sup>th</sup> for Candlewood and August 26<sup>th</sup> for Squantz Pond. Thanks to Steve Kluge and Bill Lohan for joining me on the water!
  - This is the first month where we are beginning to see the thermocline deteriorate in the lake. At every site, with the exception of New Milford, the thermocline was very deep and weak.
  - Secchi Clarity showed distinct differences in the areas where there was still a distinct thermocline (NM) vs. those sites with a very weak thermocline (DB). The high secchi reading for Candlewood was a very impressive 4.08m in New Milford, and the low was 2.52m in Danbury. Squantz still had a stronger thermocline than many of the other Candlewood sites and had the highest clarity of the month at 4.12m.
  - We have just received the WQ results from Hydrotech for July and August – we are awaiting just a few more pieces of information from them from that monitoring, at which point I will finalize a combined WQ summary report for July and August and send that to the board.



- I wrote a new, step-by-step WQ Monitoring methodology to ensure that the monitoring is done consistently moving forward, and it was written in such a way that ideally anyone equipped with the methodology and all the tools could conduct the monitoring in a pinch.
- We have received word from DEEP, FirstLight, and Eversource of their representatives for the Lake Management Plan, and we have also been notified that 3 of the 5 municipalities are actively working on appointing a representative.
  - I've written a rough draft of an outline that I'm sure will change as we continue through the process but can function as a framework to begin.
  - I formally requested certain data and information from FirstLight that I felt would be incredibly helpful in building a picture of the lake system that would allow us to get started on the LMP.
- Historical data organization continues!
- Mark H., Steve, and I have created and organized a community education event on the Ark for the morning of Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>!
- Mark H. and I joined the team from Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR) on the lake to learn more about their monitoring work, their findings from this year, and discussed other projects that we are working on.
- Mark H. and I joined a number of delegates for a tour of the Buffer Planting at Dike's Point and the Rocky River Power Station with Brian Wood and Lauren Richardson from FirstLight. It was a great evening, and we learned a lot about what creates Candlewood Lake.
  - We also joined Brian and Lauren earlier that day for a quick coffee meeting to discuss ongoing projects that the CLA and FirstLight are working on, and different ways we can collaborate and use our mutual impacts to make a greater difference protecting the lake.
- Mark H., Bill Lohan, Doug Cushnie, Ron Barnard, and I joined Jeff Dunkerton for a tour a trial run of the new Brookfield FD Fireboat parked at Candlewood Shores. It was a great morning, and we were so glad to learn about their capabilities.
- Mark H. and I met with First Selectman Lowe in Sherman to discuss a few upcoming projects including the Sawmill Brook walk to establish erosion sites as well as the Lake Management Plan.
- Mark H., Fran, Phyllis, Bill Licht, Bill Lohan, Doug, and I enjoyed conducting the in-person interviews for the new administrative coordinator on Saturday the 28<sup>th</sup>!