



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

PO BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CT 06784 • P (860) 354-6928 • F (860) 350-5611

Minutes of CLA Regular Meeting

March 10, 2021 7:30PM

via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman
J. Main (7:35)	New Fairfield
B. Licht	New Fairfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield

W. Meikle	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
E. Siergiej	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
S. Kluge (7:41)	New Milford

J. Wodarski	New Milford
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M. Howarth, Executive Director
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Science
J. Usher, Administrative Coordinator
N. Mellas, Chief, CLAMP

Recorder: Jeannine Usher

Guests: 4

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CONSENT AGENDA

Will Meikle made a motion to remove the Treasurer's Report from the consent agenda, seconded by Martin O'Connor, with all voting in favor.

Mr. Meikle made a motion to accept the consent agenda without the Treasurer's report, seconded by Joe Wodarski with all voting in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mr. Meikle presented a new easier to follow management reporting format for the monthly financial report that he created with Bill Lohan and Martin O'Connor.

Phyllis Schaer made a motion to accept the new financial format, seconded by Joe Wodarski with all voting in favor.

Absent:

M. Toussaint	New Milford
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CLAMP

- Chief Nick Mellas has been evaluating upcoming expenses with Bill Lohan and Will Meikle.
- Training is underway with the new officers and going well.

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC SAFETY (Joe Wodarski)

Nick Mellas covered everything above in CLAMP update.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES (Doug Cushnie)

- We will be getting donated docks and will place them in Sherman to replace the existing docks.
- Radios will be evaluated at Communications Services.
- The Robalo and Ark will be serviced. Lettering is in the works.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)

- Mark Rasmussen is a new member joining the Public Awareness Committee.
- Morweb presented a first pass of their progress with the new website.
- The webinar on zebra mussels that Neil Stalter and Steve Kluge hosted was extremely successful.
- The sponsorship program was re-designed by PA with the assistance of Cathy Donohue and renamed the Business Partnership Program.

- We are anticipating having a modified clean up this year on May 22, 2021.
- The 2021 magnets are in. Volunteer Ron Hollister was selected to choose the color [blue].
- The social media policy is being pushed out to next month.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)

Neil Stalter presented the Annual 2020 Water Quality Monitoring report.

Steve Kluge shared his screen on zebra mussel findings. Neil Stalter will be reaching out to employment agencies for the Lake Stewardship program.

Steve Kluge made a motion to authorize Mark Howarth to draft the comments to DEEP and send them out, seconded by Will Meikle, with all voting in favor. The towns will be invited to endorse it.

Watershed Management Committee is looking into doing more webinars, possibly with Chief Nick Mellas and Assistant Chief, Henry Dyson.

Mr. Meikle made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Doug Cushnie with all voting in favor.
The meeting ended at 8:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Martin O'Connor, Secretary

Jeannine Usher, Administrative Coordinator
r/b/mh

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

March 10, 2021
Chairman of the BOD Monthly Report
Marianne Gaffey

Sponsorship/Partnership Appeal

Working with Cathy we have adjusted our annual Sponsorship Appeal to become a Partnership Appeal, asking businesses to partner with the CLA to help further our mission. We have sent out letters to past donors and a few targeted new donors and plan to follow up with phone calls and personal visits when it is safe to do so.

Volunteer Engagement

We are excited to have chosen Ron Hollister as our Volunteer of the Year for 2020. Ron organized the volunteer island cleanups last summer and was given the honor of choosing the CLA magnet color for next year! Stay tuned.....

Budget

We met with Sherman and New Milford town leadership to review our budget request for this year.

I have also been working on --

- * proposed **MOA changes** which Mark will cover in his report,
- * the highly successful **Zebra Mussel Webinar** which will be covered by Neil in his report
- * drafting a response to **DEEP's Squantz Cove boat launch proposal** (Neil and Steve)
- * the **new website** which will be covered by Joan during Public Awareness
- * a day of **First Light calls** which will be reviewed by Neil in his report
- * the proposed **Social Media guidelines** which are being drafted by Public Awareness.



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March 10, 2021
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

Budget Presentations

We have continued the process of presenting our proposed 2021/2022 budget to our municipalities. On Saturday, February 20th we presented our budget to the Town of Sherman and on Monday, March 1st we presented to the Town of New Milford.

MOA

After working with the Public Safety committee, we finalized our initial request to the CT DEEP to update the 2021 MOA, as required by the 3-year term set on the prior MOA. I sent the information to the CT DEEP for their review and we are awaiting their feedback.

Sponsors

There has been an effort, led by Cathy and several CLA delegates and staff, to rework our sponsor program into a Partnership Program with the CLA, as we look to engage with our corporate partners in the work we are doing. Marianne and I sent out letters to potential Partners and I will be following up with as many of them as possible in the coming week or two.

Meetings with FirstLight

We were in a day of meeting with FirstLight, along with a number of other stakeholders. The four meetings had the following topics of discussion:

- Shoreline Management Plan
- Recreation Management Plan
- Nuisance Plant Monitoring
- Technical Committee

Neil has covered these meetings in detail in his report.

ZM Webinar

Congratulations to Neil and Steve on a very successful first webinar presented by the CLA. They provided the public with an engaging presentation about zebra mussels and Candlewood, and as the host who also ran the chat during the presentation, not only did we get many interesting questions from the public (of which we answered many on our website in the FAQ section of our zebra mussel page), but we heard from many who really enjoyed the webinar. We hope to do more of these in the future, and anyone who wants to see the recording of that one can do so via our YouTube page. Both the FAQs and YouTube recording links can be found at <https://www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org/zebramussels>

DEEP Squantz Cove Launch Redesign

We took part in the Squantz Cove Launch redesign proposal webinar by the CT DEEP and per their request to the public, we have been working on input and recommendations that we plan to provide to them by the 3/18 deadline.

Equipment and Facilities Position

We are currently accepting applications for a part-time equipment and facilities employee and look forward to meeting with qualified candidates. The information about the position can be found on www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org/latestnews

Ice Safety Message

With FirstLight dropping the water a further 1-1.5 ft this winter, close to their max depth, to assist with exposing any zebra mussels in that range, we re-issued the ice safety reminder to seen to the right.

Website

We have been making progress on the new website and Joan will cover this in more detail in Public Awareness.

New Patrol Boat

The new patrol boat build is progressing and we are looking forward to the next phase of construction once metal fabrication and paint is finished. We hope to update the board and public soon with photos showing the boat in construction, as we continue towards our anticipated delivery at the end of May.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE ICE SAFETY - IMPORTANT REMINDER -

If you plan on enjoying the lake in the winter, please keep in mind the following basic ice safety tips for Candlewood Lake.

- No ice is 100% safe!
- Ice on Candlewood doesn't freeze uniformly and thickness can vary drastically in as little as a few feet of distance, which may present a life threatening situation.
- Ice conditions (ice shelves, underwater springs, water movement, ice quality) can significantly change the strength of the ice from one spot to another.
- Lake levels on Candlewood rise and fall throughout the winter which can impact ice strength and stability, especially along the shoreline.





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J. Neil Stalter

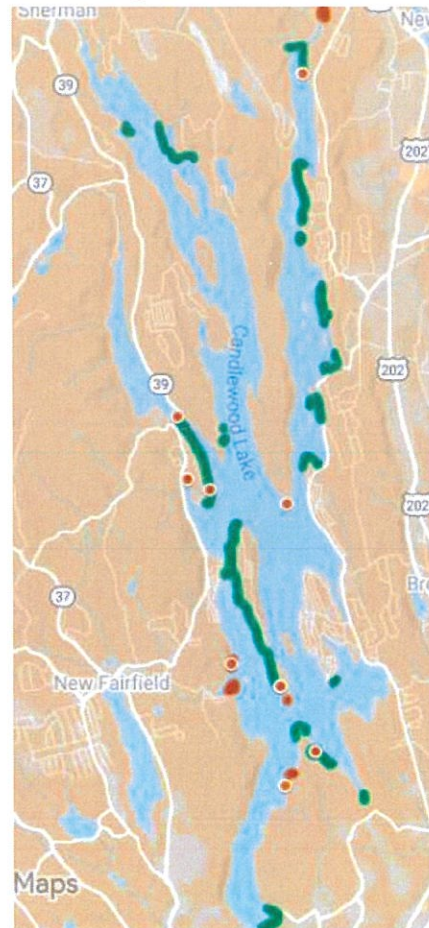
Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: March Meeting: Monthly Report

Date: 3/10/2021

- I am still working almost entirely remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and am focusing on tasks that I can accomplish from home.
- I have been continuing to manage, with the help of Steve Kluge, the Zebra Mussel monitoring, planning, and education effort.
 - On February 18th, Steve and I hosted a webinar to present scientific background on Zebra Mussels, and the current monitoring efforts/results to the public. The webinar was extremely successful, and we received a lot of excellent questions and feedback, and the zoom hit the 100 person limit within 3 minutes of the start time!
 - I submitted the final grant application for our lake steward program on February 12th to CT DEEP for the grant committee to review. We should be getting the results of that review in April.
 - Searches are still continuing, and a few more Zebra Mussels have been found and removed – particularly interesting are a few larger zebra mussels have been found in the areas exposed by the deeper drawdown.



- I have completed the presentation of the 2020 water quality monitoring, and will be giving that presentation at this (March) board meeting. I've focused on keeping the presentation tight and engaging, so that it will focus on telling a story and illustrating concepts using the data that we can share with the public!
 - The written report is still being finished, but I am also working on that, which will be more technically focused than the presentation.
- I'm working with Mark and the Public Awareness committee on our new website, as well as ongoing Facebook posts and email newsletters. Also take a look at the new CLA YouTube channel, where the zebra mussel webinar is posted, and where we will be posting CLA videos in the future.
- We attended FirstLight's annual Shoreline Management Plan and Technical Committee meetings, along with a new meeting regarding their proposed updates to the recreation management plan.
 - A number of relevant topics were discussed, but the shoreline management plan is being implemented successfully, and we were able to take a look at the "significant activities report" (i.e. substantial projects on the shoreline). We will schedule a follow up meeting with FirstLight to discuss managing the islands more in depth, but there were many interesting options discussed at the recreation plan meeting, along with the upcoming flyover this summer to inform crowding calculations on the lake.
 - The Technical Committee discussed the plant community in the lake, as well as the grass carp. DEEP expressed that they are not interested in permitting additional carp in Candlewood in the near future due to Squantz being devoid of plants.
 - Next year's drawdown was discussed, and a final decision on that is being delayed until the early summer when we hopefully have more information on the status of a possible zebra mussel population in the lake.
- I submitted a new registration for us to undergo our normal Canada Goose Egg addling program, so that should be taken care of for this year.
- I'm working with FirstLight and the Town of Sherman to get everything ready for the Invasive Species disposal station Eagle Scout project in Sherman to be built in the spring.