



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 September 1, 2021 - 7:30PM ZOOM

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
M. O'Connor	Sherman
B. Licht	New Fairfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
B. Lohan	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury

Absent:

J. Main	New Fairfield
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S. Kluge	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

E. Siergiej	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury

M. Toussaint	New Milford
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M. Howarth, Executive Director
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology & Environmental Science
J. Usher, Administrative Coordinator
H. Dyson, Assistant Chief, CLAMP

Recorder: Jeannine Usher

Guests: 4

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey called the meeting to order at 7:33pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

none

CONSENT AGENDA

Bill Licht made a motion to pull the Secretary's Report out of the consent agenda, seconded by Bill Lohan with all voting in favor.

Will Meikle made a motion to accept the July 14th minutes with the following amendment: under the capital request motion, the radios were \$3,195 and the AED was \$1,391. This motion was seconded by Bill Licht with all voting in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Bill Lohan)

Bill Lohan made a motion to transfer \$200,000 from Equipment and Facility's Capital REPLACEMENT fund (line 261) to Future Capital Projects fund 2022. These funds represent \$150,000 for the new patrol boat and \$50,000 for Miscellaneous Capital Projects in our 2022 Budget. The motion was seconded by Will Meikle with all voting in favor.

Bill Lohan made a motion to authorize the purchase using money from Future Capital Project Funds new patrol boat based on the Silver Ship's contract in the amount of \$154,415.25. The delivery is targeted for May 2022. The motion was seconded by Joe Wodarski with all voting in favor.

CLAMP (Asst Chief Henry Dyson)

- Several cancelations due to the rain.
- The Silver Ships was brought to FCI for a dedication to the waterfront property.
- There will be additional shifts Labor Day weekend.
- All the new radios and scanners are in.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Bill Licht shared the new Public Safety Mission Statement (*see below*).

As it has been discussed at the Public Safety, Executive and Board meetings, the CLA has agreed that as the current MOA does not authorize the CLA to provide public safety on Squantz Pond. We will not be requesting an amendment to the MOA to allow us to do so. Mark Howarth will send an email to Mike Lambert at the CT DEEP to express this decision.

Bill provided a summary of the summer for Public Safety.

Candlewood Lake Authority Public Safety Committee Mission Statement and Goals

Our Mission: To provide oversight and support to Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol in order to promote safe, enjoyable, and environmentally sound recreational boating. We value teamwork, honesty, integrity, and responsibility, while respecting the dignity and rights of everyone and creating opportunities for outreach and education.

Our Goals:

- Continue to enhance the presence of our Candlewood Lake Marine Patrol Officers on the water to promote public safety while ensuring appropriate law enforcement responsibilities.
 - Ensure that we have a competitive and capable Marine Patrol force that is prepared to execute its responsibilities.
 - Ensure that the Marine Patrol has the necessary equipment and training to perform its duties safely.
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EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Doug Cushnie)

Doug provided a summary of the summer. The Silver Ships boat is being used the most. It has been serviced 3 times and has 450 hours on it already. Robalo is due for service. Eversource took the dead tree down at the base.

PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)

Joan Archer provided a summary of the summer and shared the new **Contact If Found** sticker the CLA will produce for people to put on their paddle craft.

Website traffic on the new CLA website increased through July and has declined a little in August, and social media is active and engaging more followers. Open rates for emails are at 50%.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Steve Kluge)

Steve Kluge and Neil Stalter provided a summary of the summer. We submitted a permit application to begin Sand Island restoration. There is one more weekend left of the successful Lake Steward Program. Between 500-600 boats will have been inspected this season! Water quality monitoring frequency has doubled to twice a month this season.

The meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin O'Connor/gu".

Martin O'Connor, Secretary

Jeannine Usher, Administrative Coordinator

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



CLA Chairman's Report August 2021

All the CLA committees worked hard throughout the summer and this past month carrying out plans made during the last year and evaluating their goals for the future. I am very pleased to see the time and energy being spent at the committee level and commend the committee chairs for their work.

CLAMP has also stepped up this summer in finding new ways to address existing issues, working to better relationships with partner agencies and providing a professional presence on the lake.

Watershed has had a busy summer with the successful Lake Stewards program, ramping up water testing, a proposed project on Sand Island, a second Webinar and a deep dive into all the existing programs.

Equipment and Facilities has been busy keeping all our equipment running, updating the facilities at the base to assist the Patrol, ordering the new Silver Ships, beginning the search for a new base and reviewing the long-term capital budget.

Public Awareness has been working on their communications plan using our FB and Instagram pages and will share their successes at the BOD meeting.

The next few months will be busy as we review/update our by-laws, review staff job descriptions/benefits/salaries and prepare the 2022-2023 budget.

Thank you to every employee and delegate – all your work is paying off and I am proud to be associated with the CLA.

Marianne Gaffey
Chair, Candlewood Lake Authority



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September 1, 2021
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

Summer 2021 Newsletter

We sent out a summer newsletter that focused on the expanded presence the CLA has had. It discussed our larger presence at the boat ramps, via our Lake Steward invasive species inspection and education program and our Marine Patrol officers being at the launch to offer boaters the opportunity to have a safety inspection done before they head out on the lake.

Both of these voluntary inspection programs have had a positive impact by educating boaters about invasive species and required safety equipment, while working to prevent the introduction of invasive species and working with boaters who take part to ensure they have the required safety equipment on board. It has also allowed boaters to interact with the us in ways they haven't been able to in the past.

We also wrote about our expanded presence on the water with the new patrol boat, increased and focused use of the PWCs for patrolling, and expanded shifts and hours of operation at night. We covered our expanded environmental presence letting people know we doubled our water quality monitoring frequency and added a zebra mussel DNA detection program in for water samples in a partnership with WestConn.

Lastly, we covered our expanded presence online with our new website, expanded social media reach and finally our webinars.

It has been a busy summer with a lot of new programs and initiatives that were highlighted in the newsletter.



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

- Preserving and Protecting Candlewood Lake Since 1972 -

A Greater Presence in 2021

Increased presence at boat ramps and on the water provides additional public safety and helps prevent invasive species

The Candlewood Lake Authority is working diligently with our partners to preserve and protect Candlewood Lake. This summer, there has been a greater CLA presence on land, on the water and online! Please share this important work with friends and neighbors by forwarding this email and asking them to [subscribe](#).

CLA Presence at the Boat Launches

If you've used the State of CT or municipal launches on Candlewood this summer, you may have been greeted by Candlewood Lake Authority staff prior to launching. This year, two new CLA initiatives at the launches have been rolled out; one to help prevent invasive species and the other to help keep boaters safe.

Through a CT DEEP grant, the Candlewood Lake Authority has introduced the brand new Lake Steward Program! The Stewards greet boaters at the public boat ramps and offer to perform an invasive species inspection of their vessel and trailer. In the course of the quick



Paddlecraft ID Stickers

We sent out a note to let people know they can get "If Found" stickers for their kayaks, SUPs etc. through DEEP so that people can put important contact information on their paddle craft, should they break free or blow into the lake and drift away. We have a batch we got in that the patrol is handing out and we are in the process of printing up a batch of our own which we will distribute widely to help get identifying information on paddle craft.

Quarterly Update

We sent out another quarterly update to the CEOs. Thank you to Marianne and all who contributed to that report.

Squantz Cove Launch Redesign

We received an email update containing the CT DEEP response to emailed comments, including those the CLA submitted, about the proposed redesign of the Squantz Cove State boat launch on Candlewood. We hope to continue to communicate with the CT DEEP about the project as it progresses. The design and comments with responses can be found here

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Boating/Boat-Launches/Candlewood-Lake-Squantz-Cove--Boat-Launch>

Did You Know

I am starting to work with Cathy Donahue on a "Did You Know" type campaign to help educate the users of the lake about not only what the CLA does, but important public safety and environmental information as well as hopefully some more entertaining pieces of lake info.

CLA Base

We had some minor damage from a tree branch that put a hold in the roof of the base and broke the railing. That tree has since been removed by Eversource. I met with Martin who is heading up the exploratory task force to evaluate our present and future needs for office space for the office staff and marine patrol. Martin is putting some initial information together in advance of that task force meeting.



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J. Neil Stalter

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

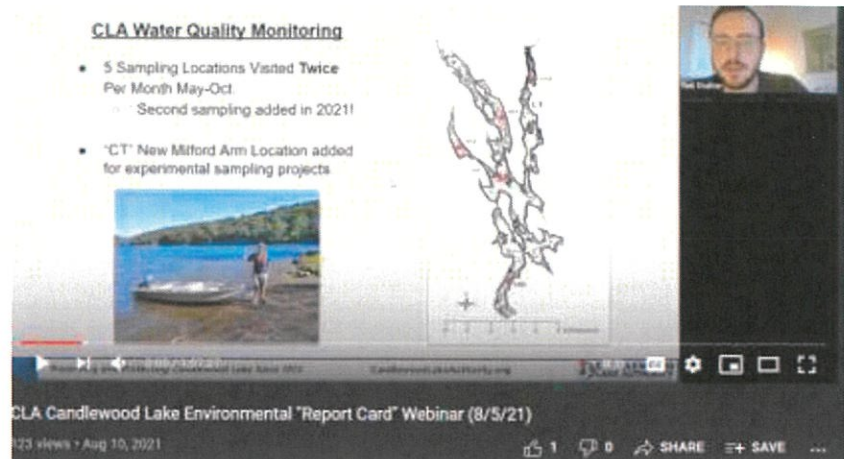
Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: September Meeting: Monthly Report

Date: 9/1/2021

- The normal CLA Water Quality monitoring is continuing, and we have completed 4 of the 6 total months of monitoring, leaving only September and October. We have doubled the amount of sampling we conduct this year, which means we have a more fine-grained view of what is happening in the water month to month.
 - This year, generally, has had medium to high chlorophyll-a measurements indicating greener water and more algal material in the lake. While we have seen increases in the number of blue green algae cells, no tests for Microcystin toxin have come back elevated at all.
 - Surface water temperatures are slightly cooler than in past years, and the water isn't stratified as strongly. However, we are still seeing nutrient loading in the anoxic lake bottom.
 - Thank you as always to Steve Kluge for his help with our water chemistry monitoring.
- We are almost at the final weekend of the first year of the CLA Lake Steward Program! Labor Day will be the final day our stewards will be at the public launches for this year. The program has been incredibly successful, and we will have inspected 500-600 boats before they entered Candlewood Lake.
 - Many boaters have had plants (mostly milfoil) hanging off of their boats and trailers, presenting a critical education and protection opportunity.
 - Thank you to our stewards and steward supervisor for their hard work this summer!

- Steve Kluge and I presented a Webinar on August 5th as a mid-season “report card” for Candlewood Lake and going over our water quality monitoring program. We loved presenting it, and also posted it on Facebook where it has 123 views as of this writing.



- I joined Michael early in the morning to help conduct our annual boat count! Please see below for the results from the past 4 years. You can see a substantial increase in almost all categories since August of last year.

	UNREGISTERED	NO CABIN	CABIN	PWC	Total Registered	Total Vessels	% Registered
2018	2068	3252	352	568	4172	6240	67%
2019	1675	3171	253	588	4012	5687	71%
2020	1685	3240	274	620	4134	5819	71%
2021	2063	3489	185	715	4389	6452	68%

- Steve and I have been working hard on updating and modernizing the Watershed Management subcommittee budget, and it should be ready to share with the committee for their input soon, before going to the full board.
- We have submitted the permit application to FirstLight for the remediation work on Sand Island. We have not yet received approval, but they have reached out for more information for me, which I have given to them.
- We are already planning new initiatives and projects for the off-season and for next year, and look forward to developing them more.
- We should be receiving the proposed experimental procedure from AER for the nutrient budget to contribute to the Lake Management Plan and our understanding of where Candlewood Lake’s nutrients are coming from.
- We are continuing to take water samples for Zebra Mussel eDNA, and none have come back positive yet. We are awaiting the results from 10 samples recently dropped off at Dr. Wong’s lab.
- We post the Blue Green algae monitoring every Friday on our Facebook page!