



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting June 13, 2018

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
J. Main	New Fairfield
B. Licht	New Fairfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury (electronic)
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
J. Wodarski	New Milford
S. Kluge	New Milford

Absent:

E. Siergiej	Danbury
G. Linkletter	Sherman
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
B. Brown	Brookfield
M. Toussaint	New Milford

F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator
M. Howarth, CLA Executive Director
CLA Marine Patrol – Chief D. Vane and Asst. Chief R. Barnard

Recorder: F. Frattini

Guests:

Four members of the public.

Chairman, Phyllis Schaer, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:33 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the guests.

Pubic Comment: Mrs. Schaer asked if anyone wished to speak.

John Tower of New Milford addressed the delegates noting that he is an attorney with Cramer and Anderson and also a paddle boarder. He wanted to relate what occurred while paddle boarding on the Housatonic near the Rocky River Station. The gates opened and water was entering the river from the lake, he continued up the river and on his return there was a large fish kill of Alewives from having gone through the turbines. He asked if the canal could be designed in a manner that would prevent the fish from getting through and being macerated? Discussion followed and the CLA recommended that he advise DEEP Fisheries on what he saw on the river. He had another item and that is he is very concerned about protecting and preserving Vaughn's Neck – Mrs. Schaer advised that she had spoken with Northeast Utilities on this matter and was advised that since the property was purchased with rate payer money if it was sold they would have to

return the money to the rate payers, so it is unlikely that the property would be sold. Mr. Tower advised that the property must be preserved. Mrs. Schaer noted that the Lake Authority is charged with the protection and preservation of the lake. Mary from Danbury advised that she will be moving forward with contacting New Milford on the Dike's Point buoy now that things have quieted down after the storm. Mrs. Schaer thanked her for the update.

Secretary's Report: Jerry Murphy, Secretary, noted there were no changes and *made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 9, 2018 meeting as written, seconded by Steve Kluge, motion was voted with all in favor and Chris Robinson abstained. Motion carried and minutes have been accepted as written.*

Public Safety/CLAMP: Chief Doug Vane advised that the season is going quite well so far.

Joe Wodarski, Committee co-chair, noted that Alewives are an invasive species; they are bait fish dumped by the fishermen. He suggested that the CLA reach out to DEEP for some feedback.

Chairman's Report: Chairman Phyllis Schaer reported that at the Executive Committee meeting they voted on the recommendation *to appoint Ron Barnard as the CLAMP Assistant Chief. Jerry Murphy moved to approve this appointment and Joe Wodarski seconded and motion was voted with all in favor.*

Mrs. Schaer reported that she and Mark Howarth are working with two New Fairfield Students in the SEE (Senior Enrichment Experience) Program – both students are interested in Environmental Science, they have been working on Zebra Mussel Hotels, Aquatic Invasive Species posters and researching AIS in the Tri-State Area. Tomorrow they will be joining Dr. Pinou for Carp Tracking. They have been a pleasure to work with and are doing an excellent job. Mr. Howarth added that they hope to come to the July meeting to present what they have done to the Board.

Mrs. Schaer advised that on FLPR proposal to FERC on the below language as a replacement to Exhibit A, Section VI (c) *“For Preexisting Docks, any non-encapsulated foam must be replaced with fully encapsulated foam flotation if the dock is replaced or modified, consistent with Exhibit F – Boat Dock Guidelines a), V.”* That was discussed at the May meeting that asked for clarification on what a dock “modification” would be. This was answered by FLPR “routine maintenance is not a modification anything that would require a permit is a modification.” *With that Mrs., Schaer made a motion to support the above language as a replacement to Exhibit A, Section VI (c) of the SMP “For Preexisting Docks, any non-encapsulated foam must be replaced with fully encapsulated foam flotation if the dock is replaced or modified, consistent with Exhibit F – Boat Dock Guidelines a), V.”, seconded by Doug Cushnie and voted with all in favor. Motion carried.* Mr. Howarth will notify FirstLight via email of the approval.

Mrs. Schaer advised that the date for the bench dedication for former delegate Harold Mayer will be Saturday, May 23, 2018 at 10:30 AM at Lyn Deming Town Pak in New Milford. Please advise if you plan on attending.

She further reported that the CLA was fortunate to receive the Buoy Grant from FLPR again this year which will allow the CLA to purchase 15 new buoys. Also FLPR

has sent their annual donation for 2018/2019. The Zebra Mussel Billboard on Sullivan Road is up and she has received complements, Joe Wodarski noted it is an excellent location. Bill Licht reported that he had researched the portable billboards and they can be in the bed of a pickup truck or on a small trailer which seems to be the preferred way, he gave the information to Mr. Howarth who will research some questions on leaving them at the ramps, registration, liability, storage, vandalism, etc. It appears that the cost would not exceed three thousand dollars but there are still a number of questions and Mr. Howarth asked the delegates to help by forwarding questions the CLA needs to consider to him.

Copies of “Candlewood Lake Authority Comments Regarding the FirstLight Power Resources draft 2017 Vegetated Buffer Progress Report” were distributed to the delegates and will be attached to these minutes). Mrs. Schaer advised that she and Mr. Howarth spoke with Brian Wood of FLPR today to discuss the issues, she reviewed the items and Mr. Howarth added his points. Discussion followed. It was suggested that this would be a good topic for State of the Lake and for Lake Communities to install a buffer at their community lakefront. FLPR will be doing a demonstration buffer at Dike’s Point. Buffers target different groups: those interested in water quality, just for the looks and ease of maintenance and increase in property value. CLA, FLPR and the UCONN Master Gardeners partnering together may work well for the Lake. *With no further discussion, Jerry Murphy moved to accept the “Candlewood Lake Authority Comments Regarding the FirstLight Power Resources draft 2017 Vegetated Buffer Progress Report”. Seconded by Joe Wodarski. Bill Lohan suggested that the last sentence of #4 should be Paragraph #5. Motion was voted with all in favor. Motion carried.* Mr. Howarth will submit those comments to FirstLight via email.

Mrs. Schaer reported that the CLA has received an offer to purchase the Chris Craft for eighty-five hundred (\$8,500.00) dollars, after some brief discussion it was suggested that the offer be accepted. *Doug Cushnie moved to accept the offer, Chris Robinson seconded and motion was voted with all in favor. Motion passed and boat will be sold.*

Mrs. Schaer asked the Committee Chairs for goals for 2018/2019 – Equipment/Facilities Committee – Doug Cushnie advised he is just getting started and assessing the equipment, he noted funds for a new boat or engine should be set aside. Question on the Pump-out Boat – Mrs. Schaer advised that it cannot be used for any other purpose and the CLA is not interested or able to take it on.

Public Safety Committee – Co Chair, Joe Wodarski noted that funds for a new patrol boat or major repair needs to be set aside. Discussion on the Capital Project Fund followed. The CLA has a process to set aside funds for Capital expenses.

Finance Committee – Treasurer Bill Lohan advised that the CLA is using electronic bill pay - payroll is direct deposit and about 75% of bills are paid on line, would like to get that to 95%. He would like to reconcile the new budget with the current year to see if it needs some fine-tuning. He did advise that Brookfield, New Fairfield and Danbury have approved the full appropriation of \$79,900/town so that will be the appropriation for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Public Awareness and Watershed Management Chairmen were absent.

Vice-Chairman's Report: Vice Chairman, Mark Toussaint was absent – no report.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Bill Lohan noted that year-to-date income is 99% of budget. FLPR donation for next year will not show up in the 2017/2018 report. Expenses year to date are Administration is at 61%, Equipment/Facilities 87%, Public Safety 78%, Public Awareness 69% and Watershed Management 75% making the total year to date expenditures 71% of the total. He expects about \$45,000 expenses for June, which will end the year with a surplus. Mr. Lohan reported that there were budget transfers totaling \$1,597.75 – *transfer from Line #113 Insurance \$60.60 to Line #123 Computer Hardware/Software, from Line # 102 Exec. Dir Fringe \$828.27 to Line #161 HR Expense, from Line #300 LP Wages \$327.18 to Line #300A LP Wages Off Lake, from Line #312 Gas and Oil \$237.82 to Line #318 Maint & Misc, from line # 322 Uniforms \$88.00 to Line #311 Boat Maint. from Line #322 Uniforms \$15.55 to Line #321 Radio Expenses and from Line #415 Events and Displays \$40.33 to Line #414 Subscriptions.* Dan Rosemark moved to approve these transfers, seconded by Phyllis Schaer and voted with all in favor. Motion carried and transfers approved.

Dan Rosemark then moved to accept the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual for the period ended May 31, 2018, seconded by Steve Kluge and voted with all in favor. Report has been accepted and filed for audit.

Mr. Lohan reported that a portion of the surplus will go into the Capital Fund; it is rare for the anticipated amount of the surplus this year that is due mainly to being short one full time employee for the year. He should have some suggestions for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Executive Director's Report: Mark Howarth advised his report is attached to these minutes and then noted the highlights. Grass Carp Tracking again with Dr Pinou, storm recovery – he was out doing an assessment of damage from the water, securing or removing debris, retrieving buoys, docks, boats etc. He coordinated a safety message with FLPR and DEEP, he photo-documented the damage and shared the photos with the Towns for their FEMA requests. The Clean Up was postponed, and the Public Awareness committee discussed possibly looking to have it in September, as it cannot be done in season. The first round of phone interviews have been conducted for the new Director of Ecology and Environmental Education; second round will be done soon. The CLA participated in the Sherman Memorial Day Parade, weather reports are again on social media for the weekends, fireworks will be June 30th. From Public Awareness he reported that the CLA will be at the New Milford Village Fair Days again this year July 27 and 28 – volunteers needed. Booth to have an historical theme for the lake's 90th birthday, asked for help from the delegates. Finally, he reported on the idea from John Hodge to have bands on a boat that can go to the Town Parks playing tunes from the past 90 years for the Lake's birthday. Discussion of creating a video series about how to plant a buffer, rain garden etc. was discussed.

Public Safety Committee: reported earlier

Pubic Awareness Committee: Committee Chairman George Linkletter absent – no report as it was included above in the Executive Director’s report.

Watershed Management Committee: Committee Chairman, Mark Toussaint absent – no report

Equipment/Facilities Committee: Committee Chairman Doug Cushnie reported that he has been busy going over the storm damage, locating buoys, ARK in for service, Echo Bay did get the Patrol Dock in, right now in good shape.

Old/New Business

Decontamination pilot program – this year try to put it together, use it for a short time look for location, input and support from the towns.

Mark Howarth noted that he would like to meet with the Town CEO’s before the end of the month and asked the delegates to coordinate with the office. He would like to do this as soon as possible.

Jerry Murphy advised the delegates to go for a ride with a patrol officer, it will be an eye-opening experience.

Jerry Murphy moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by bill Lohan, meeting adjourned at 9:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Jerry Murphy, Secretary
Frances Frattini, 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*

Candlewood Lake Authority Comments regarding the FirstLight Power Resources draft 2017 Vegetated Buffer Progress Report

- 1) In our discussion with Brian Wood on 6/13/2018 we noted that Attachment B (Vegetated Buffer Sales Dates Since 3/27/2013) did not include 2013 data for New Fairfield. Brian indicated that they are aware of that omission, have the information and will be including that when they submit the final filing to FERC on 6/15/2018.
- 2) We also had a discussion with Brian, noting that the 2016 Attachment B (New or Modified Uses – Permits Issues in 2016) wasn't included in the 2017 report as it was in 2016. He said that he would look into why the 2016 Attachment B chart style was dropped.*
- 3) We asked FirstLight about the 2017 Attachment B (Vegetated Home Sales Dates Since 3/27/2013) and noted that the chart, while helpful in indicating the date and number of properties sold as well as the municipality they were sold in, does not indicate the buffer status of the properties shown. A column with that information would be helpful to view buffer progress and correlate possible improvements in water quality.**
- 4) We had discussions with Brian about partnering on buffer education. The CLA has been in touch with the UConn Master Gardeners Program and looks forward to getting together to discuss a potential partnership between the CLA, FirstLight and them to educate and facilitate buffer plantings by homeowners around the lake, among other educational initiatives we might be able to partner on. Additionally, we express our support for FirstLight's planned concept buffer planting at Dikes Point Recreational Area.

** While the attachment wasn't included, there was data included in the body of the letter which Brian went over and explained to us. He explained that the reports says that 113 Permits were issued in the calendar year. 44 of those properties had buffers that were already compliant. 47 of them had a partial buffer, but required enhancement by 2022 or sooner. The remaining 22 properties were for existing use permits (no changes) which he said did not trigger a buffer requirement.*

*** Brian wasn't sure how much of that data was currently available. He noted that none of the home sales properties in the report are due for compliance for the period the report covered (through 12/31/2017). However, in 2018 the homes sold in 2013 would hit their 5-year compliance date. FirstLight plans to notify those homeowners with a letter that they need to be in compliance and prove as such or schedule a site visit by FirstLight Power Resources.*



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June 11, 2018
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report:

- **Carp Tracking:** With the carp transmitter batteries still working this season we are once again working the Dr. Pinou to continue the carp tracking program this summer.
- **Storm Recovery:** After the Candlewood Lake area was hit with a bad storm on May 15th, like many in the area we shifted into recovery mode. For us that included days on the water securing the lake, as best as possible, by removing large debris, logs and objects that had blown into the water, returning hazard buoys, boats and docks that broke free, etc. We also went out with Chief Vane, Captain Barnard and Lieutenant Mellas prior to Memorial Day Weekend to reassess the situation on the lake.
- **Safety Messages:** After the storm, we worked with the CT DEEP and FirstLight Power Resources to put out joint boating safety messages, warning boaters of possible new hazards in the lake. Those messages were sent out to our email lists, posted on our website and on Facebook.
- **FEMA Support:** While out securing the lake we photo-documented the damage done to the shoreline to have a historical record of the event. The towns of New Fairfield and Brookfield, as well as the City of Danbury expressed an interest in the images from their shoreline to assist them with their FEMA requests. We gladly provided them the images from their respective shorelines.
- **Clean Up Postponed:** We were working to get ready for the Clean Up, which had been scheduled for May 19th, and was subsequently postponed due to the storm. We will work to find a new date for the event later this year when hopefully one of the town parks can host us, our volunteers and our clean up boats.
- **Director of Ecology and Environmental Education:** Fran and I have completed the resume review process, as well as the first-round interviews, for the Director of Ecology and Environmental Education position. We will now be moving to the planned final round of interviews, with the HR Committee involved.
- **Sherman Parade:** We participated in the Sherman Memorial Day Parade again this year. The CLA Marine Patrol boat carried officers Barnard and Mellas, and me, with Nic Marsicano pulling us with the CLA truck.

- Weather Reports: We are once again putting out the weekend weather reports for Candlewood Lake. They are posted on our social media platforms and have proven very popular.
- Vegetated Buffer Progress Report: FirstLight Power Resources has sent us their 2017 Vegetated Buffer Progress Report for review and comments, due by June 14th, the end of the 30-day comment period. The Executive Committee has discussed it at their June meeting and will bring recommendations before the board for a vote.
- Fireworks: The Independence Day fireworks celebration in Danbury Bay are scheduled for June 30th with a rain date of July 1st.
- FLPR Grant Buoys: We are happy to report that FirstLight awarded us our \$7,650 grant request to replace 15 aging hazard buoys on the lake.