



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

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## Minutes of CLA Regular Meeting Wednesday, June 14, 2023 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

P. Schaer Sherman  
D. Cushnie Sherman  
M. O'Connor Sherman

J. Archer New Fairfield

M. Gaffey Brookfield  
W. Meikle Brookfield  
B. Lohan Brookfield

C. Robinson Danbury  
D. Rosemark Danbury

S. Kluge New Milford  
M. Toussaint New Milford  
J. Wodarski New Milford

N. Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Science  
D. Wright, Administrative Coordinator

Recorder: D. Wright

Guests: 1

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

none

### CONSENT AGENDA

*Marianne Gaffey made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by **Mark Toussaint**, all voting in favor.*

Nick Mellas was moved first on the agenda.

### ABSENT:

B. Licht New Fairfield

J. Main New Fairfield

E. Siergiej Danbury

M. Howarth, Executive Director

M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

### **MARINE PATROL (Nick Mellas)**

It's been a busy start to the season. There have been over 400 man-hours on water, 33 shifts completed, one rain out, 200+ contacts, and 214 training hours for spring. There has been a lot of debris found on the lake; 12 large hazardous trees have been removed, and everyone should proceed with caution on the lake. A thank you was extended to the New Fairfield Fire Department for helping with a sinking boat which would have resulted in a significant loss of property.

Will Meikle suggested a social media post regarding the debris and hazards on the lake. Nick agreed to this idea.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT (Bill Lohan)**

**Budget** - Income YTD is ahead of plan by \$12k with expenses by all committees running under budget, reflecting a projected positive position of \$90k before June expenses and year-end accruals. Present planned accruals are for the lake management plan, office transition and software for tablets for CLAMP. We also plan to transfer funds to help offset silver ship #3 projected price increase. The final quote for #3 is still pending. Revised projected financial position at year-end is expected between \$10k – \$14k

**Audit** – Engagement Letter received from Audit firm - confirmed engagement for early August start with projected statements available by the October 2023 CLA BOD meeting.

**Banking** – Intend to move this month the banking accounts into a sweep account. The benefits are improved interest rates and increased protection of funds.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY (Will Meikle)**

Will Meikle stated that Nick covered updates for Public Safety. No questions.

### **EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES (Doug Cushnie)**

Doug Cushnie stated we don't have a firm arrival date for Silver Ships#2 but they are aware of our requested timeline. In addition, we anticipate a significant increase in cost for Silver Ships#3 but we have no specific quotes to date.

### **Office Options – M O'Connor – Provided an update on potential options.**

Current New Milford lease expires 6/30/23 – the intent is to sign a short-term lease.

New Fairfield – Causeway building – a small group from CLA toured the building with new owners. The new owner is seeking to renovate the building offering: storage, shared office space, and a limited number of private offices. Initial plans are being finalized and will be presented to the Town of New Fairfield in the coming weeks. The new owners are open and excited to work with the CLA with regard to dedicated office space and one to two docks. They will incorporate our requirements in their master site plans. They will provide an update of their meeting with the town late next week. Sherman base will not be impacted with regards to the New Fairfield potential opportunity.

### **PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)**

The cleanup date was May 20<sup>th</sup> and it went well; a dumpster was filled, even though it was raining. A social media calendar is being created for this season.

### **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)**

Neil gave an update on the exclosures, which three are in. There is one in Sherman, one in shelter cove in New Fairfield, and one north of the causeway in New Fairfield. There are materials for two additional exclosures. The locations will be monitored for plant growth. Signs will be added to help with visibility.

Training for Lake Stewards began this past weekend, and we have a great team this year.

We are moving forward with water quality monitoring without any problems.

DEEP grass carp removal was a success, with 118 fish removed over three days.

We will monitor the plants to see if the plant community changes in response to the efforts. No questions.

*Marianne Gaffey made a motion to enter an Executive Session for an employee personnel matter. Phyliss Schaer seconded the motion with all in favor.*

The Executive Session began at 7:32pm. All board members in attendance at the meeting went into Executive Session.

8:41pm, returned from Executive Session

*Will Meikle made a motion to approve the conversion of the Chief position to a salaried exempt role starting July 1, at the salary level discussed during the Executive Session, contingent on legal review. Phyllis Schaer seconded the motion with all in favor.*

**ADJOURN**

*Marianne Gaffey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Doug Cushnie, with all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martin O'Connor<sup>DW</sup>*

Martin O'Connor, Secretary  
Dee Wright, Administrative Coordinator

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