



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 Regular Meeting

July 8, 2020, 7:30PM

via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
J. Archer	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

Absent:

J. Main	New Fairfield
B. Licht	New Fairfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director
 J. Neil Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Education
 J. Usher, CLA Administrative Coordinator
 R. Barnard, Chief, CLAMP
 N. Mellas, Asst Chief, CLAMP
 H. Dyson, Captain, CLAMP

Recorder: J. Usher

Guests: 3

Chairman, Phyllis Schaer called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:37pm. This meeting took place via Zoom video conference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public Comment:

Greg Bugbee of the CAES shared a Power Point presentation of the 2018/2019 Nuisance Plant Report weed mapping results with the CLA. A brief discussion followed regarding Milfoil Control, future supplemental stocking of Sterile Grass Carp and planned Deep Drawdown this winter. We will continue to monitor Milfoil growth and effects of both Sterile Grass Carp and Drawdowns. Mr. Bugbee noted Drawdowns continue to play a key part in Eurasian Milfoil control along with the use of Sterile Grass Carp. Carp sightings noted in coves. The past year was the lowest recorded Exposed Surface Patches of milfoil, but overall presence of milfoil indicates need for continued Drawdown and recommended possible future supplemental stocking with DEEP approval.

Consent Agenda

Ms. Schaer made a motion to accept the reports on the consent agenda, seconded by Steve Kluge with all voting in favor.

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY MARINE PATROL

Ron Barnard, Chief of CLAMP, reported the increased challenges that the lake patrol is facing. He added additional shifts. A discussion followed on overuse of islands, lack of social distancing by recreational public, and equipment needs.

Mark Howarth will coordinate a meeting with the town CEO's, First Light, DEEP and CLA to address these concerns.

Chairman's Report:

Will speak further about Neighborhood Grant program under Old Business

Vice-Chairman's Report:

Mr. Toussaint is not present.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr., Lohan noted Total Expenses for June: \$490,386

Admin	97.1%
E&F	56.5%
PA	82%
PS	96.6%
WM	98.3%

Overall expense is 92% of budget.

Bill Lohan made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report or Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual July 2019-June 2020 preliminary report dated July 8, 2020, seconded by Ms. Schaer with all voting in favor.

Mr. Lohan made a motion to reimburse Doug Cushnie for expenses totaling \$257.99 for equipment and facilities purchases, seconded by Dan Rosemark with all voting in favor.

Mr. Lohan made a motion to approve budget line transfers dated 7/8/20, seconded by Ms. Schaer and opposed by Joe Wodarski, Doug Cushnie, Chris Robinson, Dan Rosemark and Marianne Gaffey.

There was a brief discussion and clarification regarding what the delegates were voting on, which was reclassifying funds to correct General Ledger expense account numbers, not on whether the funds should be spent. A second vote took place after the discussion, and is as follows below:

Mr. Lohan made a motion to approve budget line transfers dated 7/8/20, seconded by Ms. Schaer, with 4 delegates in favor: Phyllis Schaer, Bill Lohan, Steve Kluge and Joan Archer, 4 delegates abstaining (Joe Wodarski, Marianne Gaffey, Dan Rosemark, Doug Cushnie) and one delegate opposed, Chris Robinson. Motion passed.

Mr. Lohan made a motion to use up to \$25,000 from the 2020 surplus to add to the capital improvement fund, seconded by Joan Archer with all voting in favor.

Mr. Lohan made a motion to add \$6,000 to line 118 Professional Services for unanticipated bookkeeping services from line 123 Computer Hardware/Software, seconded by Ms. Archer with all voting in favor.

The annual audit will begin in late July and have results in early August. Sandra Wellwood, the accountant for the CLA has sent a letter stating there will be \$1,000 increase in her services due to COVID-19. Bill Lohan will follow up and clarify if the increase applies to our contracted Audit services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee:

Mr. Wodarski emphasized the Public Safety's role in the CLA and the need for a new patrol boat.

Equipment/Facilities Committee:

Mr. Cushnie noted that we are planning to letter the Robalo patrol boat.

Public Awareness Committee:

Ms. Gaffey noted that the Not Wanted campaign will be launched digitally in the newsletter, on the website, social media, etc. Signs will put up next year. Neil Stalter has had great success with the Zebra Mussel Hotel program. The magnets are in and are being distributed. A fundraising campaign will be implemented this summer to raise funds for a new boat. Updates will follow.

Watershed Management Committee:

Mr. Toussaint is not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Ms. Schaer provided an update on recent FERC notices.

Ms. Schaer discussed the opportunity of the CLA applying for the Neighborhood Grant Program for Equipment & Facilities improvements to benefit Public Safety operations. A brief discussion followed. Documentation needs to be completed and Town approval is required. The deadline is July 31st to apply. This is an ongoing program. If we don't receive it this year, we should apply again next year.

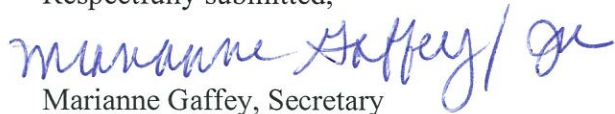
NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Stalter reported that the water quality monitoring is going well. He is available for phone calls if anyone has questions.

ADJOURN

*Mr. Wodarksi made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Chris Robinson with all voting in favor.
The meeting ended at 10:14pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marianne Gaffey" followed by a stylized flourish.

Marianne Gaffey, Secretary
Jeannine Usher, Administrative Coordinator
r/b/mh/ps

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



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July 8, 2020
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

COVID-19

I continue to work remotely while also spending some time at the Sherman Base/on the water.

Aquatic Invasive Species

- We are working on a number of AIS initiatives for the lake, some are new while others we're working on expanding. Neil has covered some of these in detail in his report.
 - Lake Steward Program: We are working to develop a pilot Lake Steward program in an effort to have Lake Stewards at boat launches to inspect vessels and educate boaters about AIS.
 - Dive Program: We have been in touch with divers as well as FirstLight as we move forward with expanding upon FirstLight's current zebra mussel dive program, with a complimentary program of our own.
 - Not Wanted AIS Campaign: We have a final design for the posters and completed the first species. We look forward to receiving the last two species, as part of our 3-species planned roll-out.
 - We shared a CT DEEP ad for open Boating Education Assistant positions to help them get word out to assist with opportunities to work at Candlewood.

IT Upgrades

- We have been migrating to our new IT system that allows for better remote access and greater efficiency, and the staff has started to learn how to use the new IT.

Year End

- We are transitioning to a new fiscal year and have been involved with closing out FY 2019/2020 and starting our new FY 2020/2021.

Islands

- We are working with FirstLight and local leaders to improve conditions on some of Candlewood's islands.

Buoy Maintenance

- Doug Cushnie and I spent time on the lake doing buoy maintenance.

Sherman Parade

- Thank you to Phyllis and Len Schaer, who participated in the Flag Day drive by parade in Sherman on June 14th, for using part of their car's empty space to represent the CLA with a CLA banner.

Magnets

- They were a bit delayed this year but we recently got the 2020 Summer magnets in and we're working to get those distributed to locations around the lake as in the past – as we have had a number of people inquire about where they can get a magnet!

Sherman Improvements

- We are looking to make some upgrades at the Sherman base. Some small upgrades are already in progress...new identifying signage for the base and Deer Island have been received and will be installed in the coming days. We are also hoping to apply for a grant to improve the aging docks we have at the base.



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J. Neil Stalter

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: July Meeting: Monthly Report

Date: 7/8/2020

- I am still working almost entirely remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and am focusing on tasks that I can accomplish from home.
 - Thank you to Steve Kluge and everyone else who has joined me out on the water for social distancing and helping me accomplish the things I need to do for the CLA while keeping us both safe!

- Following the discovery of a single juvenile zebra mussel off of the tip of Vaughn's Neck, a lot of my time has been dedicated to formulating our action plan and education to expand our monitoring and create strategies to prevent more mussels from entering the lake.
 - With the help of the Toussaint family and Marianne, I created a DIY article for members of the community to make their own simple Zebra Mussel monitoring stations. As of this writing, in addition to our normal "Zebra Mussel Hotels" we have had over 20 volunteers sign up, with every town around the lake being represented! This article was posted on Facebook and sent to our email list, along with CT DEEP's posting for additional Boating Education Assistants.
 - I've provided information and quotes about the mussel discovery, and how people can get involved in the volunteer monitoring to the Danbury NewsTimes as well.
 - Mark and I are developing a protocol for a CLA Lake Steward program to work in tandem with the DEEP BEA's that we can pilot this year to help inspect boats for invasives, and educate boaters. This is with the hope that it can be continued and expanded sustainably through the future.
 - I have also added two additional sampling locations for Zebra Mussel Larvae (veligers), one at the location where the mussel was found, and a third that can rotate to different locations – for June that third location was Danbury Bay. I am working with Dr. Wong at West Conn to get one of these samples tested for Zebra Mussel DNA.

- I am in contact with Larry Marsicano from AER regarding how he can best assist us with building a nutrient budget for the Lake Management Plan. I am also preparing to schedule another meeting of the Lake Management Plan representatives from stakeholder organizations (via Zoom) to discuss the first specific topic where we can develop a 3, 5, and 10 year plan to pursue solutions and protections.
- We've recently received the lab results from Hydrotech for the May water quality monitoring, and Steve and I conducted the June water quality monitoring on Candlewood and Squantz for June. Those samples are in the lab for analysis.
 - As of this writing, I'm finalizing the water quality summary for May, and will deliver it to the delegates and put it on our website when it's complete. I am also working with Hydrotech to help make receiving the results from the lab more consistent. They've expressed that Covid has delayed many aspects of their work, and that's much of the reason why the first month's results took longer than normal.
 - In June, we saw clear stratification of the lake, separating the upper and lower layers of water. This stratification will likely just get stronger over the next few months. We saw good secchi disk clarity (mid 3m), and low chl-a and blue-green algae measurements in June, with the exception of Squantz, which we monitored after a number of days with heavy rain, which explains much of why chl-a was elevated and clarity was lower (2.66m), since the rain brought nutrients that the algae was able to use to grow and reproduce.
- Steve and I completed the first Invasive plant sampling at all the public boat launches. No concerning discoveries, however, anecdotally we agree that it seems like the plant community is significantly denser than it was last year. This will continue monthly through October this year.
- The "Not Wanted Campaign" is nearly done, and it looks really great! The hydrilla poster is complete, and the designer is making the Zebra Mussel and Water Chestnut posters, which will go faster since the design is finalized; she just needs to finish the illustrations.
- I went out and conducted our E. Coli sampling for 1 week on the East side of the lake, since the New Fairfield seniors couldn't get enough volunteers due to Covid-19.
 - Since then, the New Fairfield Seniors have gotten more volunteers so that they can do the entire lake as normal!
 - I send the results of this monitoring to all of the towns' public health departments.
- The normal microcystin (blue green algae) testing has begun for Dr. Wong's lab at the public beaches around the lake. We are posting the results of this, as well as the weekly weekend weather forecasts on our Facebook Page.