



# 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 Wednesday, October 12, 2022 - 7:00PM via ZOOM

### ATTENDING:

P. Schaer (*arrived 7:10pm*) Sherman  
D. Cushnie Sherman  
M. O'Connor Sherman

B. Licht New Fairfield  
J. Archer New Fairfield

M. Gaffey Brookfield

E. Siergiej Danbury

M. Toussaint New Milford  
J. Wodarski New Milford

M. Howarth, Executive Director (*arrived 7:20pm*)  
N. Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Science  
J. Usher, Administrative Coordinator  
N. Mellas, Chief, CLAMP (*arrived 7:10pm*)  
M. Gasperino, Operations Manager

Recorder: Jeannine Usher

Guests: 3

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey called the meeting to order at 7:04pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

none

### CONSENT AGENDA

*Bill Lohan made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Martin O'Connor with all voting in favor.*

### TREASURER'S REPORT (Bill Lohan)

Income YTD is on plan. Overall, expenses for committees are under budget through September. We have concluded our search for a bookkeeper with the selection of Cynthia Rines of My Office LLC. Kari Bliss [current bookkeeper] will help with the transition through the month of October as Cynthia's contract begins November 1st.

*Bill Lohan made a motion to move \$100,000 from Line 261, Capital Replacement Fund to the Capital Projects Funds, seconded by Joe Wodarski with all voting in favor.*

**CLAMP (Chief Nick Mellas)**

Although scheduled patrol is complete for the season, the lake patrol is still available if needed. Chief Mellas is finalizing the 2022 Stats.

**PUBLIC SAFETY (Bill Licht)**

After STATS are finalized, Will Meikle will distribute to staff and delegates.

**EQUIPMENT & FACILTIES (Doug Cushnie and Mike Gasperino)**

Buoys will be removed soon.

**PUBLIC AWARENESS (Joan Archer)**

Joan Archer briefly discussed the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary potluck dinner on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> to be held at the Sail Harbour Club in New Fairfield.

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (Neil Stalter)**

Neil Stalter provided an update on plants and the deep drawdown. October is the last month of water quality monitoring. Neil's report will be finalized by the new year. Lake Stewards are finished for the season and Neil will send a report out soon.

Neil, Mark and Steve will be attending the NALMS Conference in Minneapolis in November. Neil's application for the lake manager certification is being processed.

**ADJOURN**

*Bill Licht made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bill Lohan with all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:37pm.

Respectfully submitted,



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.*



## **Chairman's Report**

### **October 12, 2022**

#### **CLA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner**

After several years of COVID and remote meetings we are finally ready to get together – in person – and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year of the CLA!

In the past the CLA has had a Patrol Dinner at the Candlewood Lake Club which was underwritten by a generous anonymous donor, this option is no longer available. This year we are celebrating ALL of the CLA – our dedicated staff and Marine Patrol as well as our Board members and other dedicated volunteers with a casual potluck dinner.

If you have not responded to the invitation sent out last week, please do so as soon as possible and be sure to note what you will bring (and if you can help set-up or clean up). A big thank you to Chief Mellas for procuring the Sail Harbor Club for the event.

#### **Brookfield WPCA Town Meeting**

On September 14<sup>th</sup> Brookfield held a Town Meeting to discuss the feasibility of extending sanitary sewer service to the Candlewood Lake Peninsula, the Candlewood Lake Club and a few more areas in Brookfield. Neil made a short presentation at the beginning of the meeting which was also attended by Mark, Bill Lohan, Will and myself (Brookfield delegates). The next week the same group met with Selectwoman Carr to share our information about the health of Candlewood Lake. The CLA has not taken a position on this issue.

#### **National Association of State Boating Administrators**

Mark and I attended the **NASBLA** Conference in Manchester, NH on Sept 28 and 29. We learned a great deal about boating issues from all over the country and how they are being addressed by other organizations. Mark and I are sharing what we learned with the Public Safety Committee as well as Public Awareness.

#### **Budgets**

Thank you to all the committees working on their budgets for next year!

**Marianne Gaffey**

**Chair, Candlewood Lake Authority**



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**October 12, 2022**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Monthly Report

- We completed and submitted the Annual Report for the Town of Sherman in September that covers the highlights of the preceding fiscal year. We also sent the report to the CEOs of each of our five member towns.
- Marianne and I attended the NASBLA (National State Boating Law Administrators) conference on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, in Manchester, New Hampshire. It was our first year attending this conference. We attended with the goal of learning about what other states are doing to promote a safe boating environment by attending various presentations, as well as networking with others at the conference. Additionally, we met with a number of representatives from different companies who had products that we were able to learn about and we got to spend some time with the people at Silver Ships who were also there. We attended presentations on advanced BUI Detection, Aqua Alert, the Water Sports Industry Association and the Water Sports Foundation among others.
  - Wake Responsibly is an outreach campaign by the Water Sports Industry Association, which promotes responsible boating behavior by those in the wake sports, such as wake surfing and wakeboarding. This group has a lot of social media and outreach content that we can utilize to help promote their “Wake Responsibly” campaign.
  - The Water Sports Foundation has a tremendous amount of outreach material that promotes safe boating including paddle craft safety. This content will be very valuable for us to share with our growing social media followers to help promote safety on the water.

We look forward to using what we learned to benefit public safety on the lake.

- We went out on the lake with two members of the DEEP boating division in September with a goal of them seeing the lake and some of the challenges as well as areas of concern, firsthand. We were also able to have discussions about what is working well on the lake and possible solutions to areas of need. Joining me were Marianne, Doug and

Sgt. Katzing. We appreciate everyone who made time that day and look forward to continued collaboration with the CT DEEP Boating Division in the coming years.

- Neil, Marianne, Bill Lohan and I attended the Brookfield WPCA's public meeting regarding their study and research into possibly sewerage the Brookfield Shores peninsula as well as other areas including the Brookfield portion of the Candlewood Lake Club. Neil gave a brief update to those in attendance on our water quality monitoring program and data. The following week we were joined by Will and met with First Selectwoman Carr to discuss in more detail our water quality data and the health of the lake.
- I attended a recent CLA Marine Patrol In-Service Training and was impressed with the focus on continuous improvement and attention to detail by Chief Mellas and the officers in attendance.
- We have started to work on the 2023/2024 budget planning process and will have that completed in December for submission to our towns.
- We have selected a new bookkeeper, as our current bookkeeper will not be able to continue to keep the CLA as a client. Bill Lohan will cover that in his treasurer's report.



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**J. Neil Stalter**

**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education**

**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**Re:** October Meeting: Monthly Report

**Date:** 10/12/2022

- We are entering our final month of Water Quality Monitoring! I am working with the lab to begin ironing out some of the hiccups from when we switched, and we are making progress. All in all, as far as water chemistry is concerned, this has been a relatively unremarkable year (the changes to the plants notwithstanding). We saw average metrics regarding clarity, chlorophyll-a, and nutrient levels, and followed standing trends regarding conductivity and ion levels.
  - I'll begin work on the final report following this month's sampling events!
- Work has begun on the final Lake Steward Report – we had a few fewer total inspections this year for a variety of reasons, but I'm excited to crunch the numbers of some of our survey responses and compare them with last year's!
  - I will be submitting the final reimbursement request for the 2021/22 steward grant award this week, and we are meeting with DEEP this week to more comprehensively plan for reimbursements/requests for the coming years.
- We've received word that FERC is requiring dam repairs of FirstLight this year that might impact the original drawdown strategy. We are working with them and the state DEEP to get confirmation and will share with our networks once we know for certain what is required.
- I am working on an update to loop the public into the current thinking regarding the change in the plant community but am waiting for confirmation on the drawdown strategy before releasing anything.
  - I am also working on setting up our strategy for monitoring next year (sonar capabilities, exclosure experiments, etc.)
  - We are planning an update webinar for early next year following receipt of the monitoring results from NEAR and the CAES.

- We will once again have expanded zebra mussel monitoring of the shoreline this drawdown season. Let me know if you'd be interested in contributing!
  - We have not received any feedback from the legislators we sent letters to regarding the proposed water pumping change but have received confirmation that they received our notice.
  
- We have made our arrangements to attend NALMS this year, and I am looking forward to learning a lot in Minneapolis from Nov. 14-17<sup>th</sup>.
  - I have also nearly completed my certification application to be a Certified Lake Manager (CLM) through NALMS, and plan to submit that this week.
  
- I am in the process of preparing to put out to bid the nutrient budget and Sand Island projects in the next month in preparation for the season next year.
  
- I plan on attending the CFL Fall Symposium on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, and WestConn has begun their remote symposia series, which begins on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Any delegates should feel welcome to join these! You can reach out to me for sign up info.