



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 January 13, 2021, 7:30PM via ZOOM due to COVID-19

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman (<i>joined 7:44pm</i>)
M. O'Connor	Sherman
J. Main	New Fairfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
W. Meikle	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford
M. Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

Absent:

B. Licht	New Fairfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury

M. Howarth, Executive Director
 N. Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Education
 J. Usher, Administrative Coordinator
 N. Mellas, Chief, CLAMP

Recorder: Jeannine Usher

Guests: 3

Chairman, Marianne Gaffey called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

Will Meikle made a motion to accept the consent agenda, seconded by Steve Kluge with all voting in favor.

Will Meikle made a motion to add 'employee healthcare coverage' to the agenda, seconded by Phyllis Schaer, with all voting in favor.

In October 2020, employee healthcare costs increased. The CLA discussed covering the employees portion of the increase effective October 1st and covering 50% of the increase effective January 2021. The increase per employee per month is \$84.00.

Mr. Meikle made a motion to implement the policy that was agreed to at the December 9, 2020 board meeting, but with an effective date of January 1, 2021, to cover half the increase of health insurance, seconded by Martin O'Connor. All in favor, except 2 delegates opposed: Mark Toussaint and Steve Kluge.

CLAMP

Report of Activities:

Preliminary interviews for Lake Patrol Officers were conducted via Zoom with Nick Mellas, Chris Robinson, Bill Licht and Joe Wodarski.

Doug Cushnie, Mark Howarth and Nick Mellas had a great meeting with the Silver Ship Company just before the new year with regards to the progress on the boat's construction

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Nothing to report at this time (see Public Awareness)

CANDLEWOOD LAKE STRATEGIC PLANNING TASK FORCE

Joan Archer briefly discussed the documents which were sent out to the delegates for the planned town presentation on Wednesday, Jan. 20th: approved budget, capital plan version 11, and appendixes.

Mr. Meikle since revised the capital plan which is now Capital Plan Version 12. Ms. Archer will send all documents by Friday, January 15th in preparation for the meeting on January 20, 2021 at 1pm.

Committee Reports:

PUBLIC SAFETY

Nothing additional to report.

EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES

Doug Cushnie had nothing new to report and agreed with Nick Mellas about the Silver Ship boat.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Neil Stalter issued press releases about the new CLA Chairman and Vice Chairman and zebra mussels. Next week a press release will be issued about the new CLAMP Chief and Assistant Chief. Updates were made to the website to include information on zebra mussels.

A website vendor meeting took place, and the committee will meet with two other companies.

CLA hopes to hold a Clean Up this year, with social distancing.

The Social Media committee is underway and making progress. Their next meeting is on January 15th.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

A zebra mussel sighting was reported by a resident and it was confirmed that it is a zebra mussel. The website now includes where it can be found with a map with a link to a form that anyone can use to report any sightings of zebra mussels. This will be included in the January newsletter.

Neil Stalter drafted a letter requesting changes be made at the boat launches to better address the invasive species threat. The letter will be sent to the towns, state legislatures and DEEP to urge them to make changes to protect the lake from all invasive species.

Doug Cushnie made a motion to send the said letter, seconded by Mr. Kluge with all voting in favor.

Jeff Main made a motion to approve Neil Stalter's water quality reports, seconded by Mr. Kluge with all voting in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Sterile Grass Carp restocking planning

No update at this time

AIS Stamp Grant Application Notice & Plans

Neil Stalter reported a great deal of support from all 5 town parks and is optimistic about a strong application.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Joan Archer made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Martin O'Connor with all voting in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Martin O'Connor, Secretary
Jeannine Usher, 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.

January 13, 2021
Chairman of the BOD Monthly Report
Marianne Gaffey

Thank you

Thank you to former Chair Phyllis Schaer and former Vice-Chair Mark Toussaint for their many years of dedicated service to the CLA. The CLA is fortunate to have your experience and expertise continue as you turn your main focus to the Watershed Committee.

Committee Assignments

I have been reviewing committee assignments to ensure that all delegates are on the committees that best match their interests and that we have good coverage on each committee. All committee assignment changes must be approved by the Executive Committee before being brought to the BOD, that will happen next month.

Strategic Planning

The Chairs of each committee and all other interested delegates met last week to share their top focus areas for 2021. We discovered many areas for different committees to collaborate and I believe we all came away with a better understanding of the challenges and goals of the CLA as a whole. Thank you to all who participated.

Budgets, Capital Planning, Town Presentations

The Executive Committee worked with staff to finalize and submit the budget to the towns, review our long-range capital plan and prepare the Jan 20 presentation to the town leaders to discuss the current budget request as well as our challenges in the coming years. The DRAFT Jan 20 presentation and all back-up information have been forwarded to the BOD for review and will be discussed at tonight's meeting.

Outreach

We continued to have conversations with our partners about our major concerns for the lake this summer and in the future. We have additional meetings on the schedule with DEEP, First Light and our local legislators and we will be talking with the town leaders at the Jan 20 presentation.



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January 13, 2021
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

Budget

We completed the work on the CLA's proposed 2021/2022 Budget, and the budget narrative, and we sent that to our municipalities. We have also completed the budget input process with the City of Danbury. We have had a preliminary budget meeting and discussion with New Milford and we have meetings scheduled with some others. We anticipate being able to schedule meetings with the remaining municipalities soon. In addition to our regularly scheduled budget meetings, we will be hosting a meeting on the 20th to present our budget and plans for the CLA, jointly to our municipalities.

Appeal

Our printed appeal went out in December as we have done in the past and we also sent an electronic appeal to our readers. We have been receiving donations by mail and online.

Patrol Boat

Our new patrol boat is now under construction. Over the past few weeks Doug and I, as well as Nick, have had several virtual meetings with the builder's design teams to go over details so that we can keep the process moving forward. They are starting to cut the metal for the boat. We look forward to providing progress updates on the boat's construction.

New Contact Information

We now have a Vice Chairman and an HR email address for the CLA and we are in the process of adding a phone number for our Patrol Chief and we ask that people migrate to using that contact information for communications.

Chief / Assistant Chief Approval

The CT DEEP formally approved the CLA Board's recommendation to promote Nick Mellas to CLA Marine Patrol Chief and Henry Dyson to the role of Assistant Chief. We look forward to working with Nick and Henry in their new positions with the CLA.



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J. Neil Stalter

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: January Meeting: Monthly Report

Date: 1/13/2021

- I am still working almost entirely remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and am focusing on tasks that I can accomplish from home.
- The Eagle Scout project in Sherman is continuing to move forward with a planned build for spring 2021.
- The social media task force continues to meet, and we are working to generate content and plan for a more robust social media presence and website this upcoming season.
- I am working with Steve Kluge to determine the needs for a new environmental work/research boat that will make collecting important lake data and doing work on the lake much easier.
 - We are going to work with some known contacts to create a fundraising campaign to raise the money for this boat, and are aiming for deployment for the 2022 season.
- I am writing the 2020 annual water quality report, and re-visualizing all of the data for in-house use for the CLA. I am making both a written report, and a presentation of some of the highlights for the board and other interested stakeholders.
- I am writing the grant proposal for the Candlewood Lake Steward program to have new employees offer invasive species education and voluntary boat inspections at each of the 7 public ramps over the 2021 boating season.
 - I have gotten a lot of support from all 5 town parks & Rec. departments, and am looking forward to a very strong application!

- We released a short press release regarding the board elections. Congrats to our new executive committee members!
- I am working with the CFL (Connecticut Federation of Lakes) to send out our “Environmental Lake Survey” to get some interesting data from lakes in Connecticut about their environmental preparedness and initiatives.
- I have worked with Marianne, Joan, and Mark H. on the 2021 presentation to the five towns about the CLA and the changing identity of Candlewood Lake, and what our needs are moving forward to protect the lake.
- I am working with Steve, as well as some involved community members to send out some information regarding sending out a call for volunteers to check out their local shorelines for signs of zebra mussels.
 - Regardless of this program, we will be going to check out the locations of mussel sightings and the boat launches ourselves to search for mussels. We are also in touch with Larry about one of his Limnology students joining us for that effort.
- I recently received the draft version of the report from CAES on the 2020 plant monitoring, and I am reviewing that now. I will pass along any comments on the submitted report from FirstLight to the board in advance of Wednesday’s meeting for approval.
 - Currently, there are no concerning differences between the two reports, and any comments will be fairly routine.
- I hope everyone had a happy and safe holiday!
 - And Go Bills!