



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 January 8, 2020

Attending:

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| P. Schaer | Sherman |
| D. Cushnie | Sherman |
| J. Main | New Fairfield |
| B. Licht | New Fairfield |
| J. Archer | New Fairfield |
| C. Robinson | Danbury |
| D. Rosemark | Danbury (via phone) |
| M. Toussaint | New Milford |
| J. Wodarski | New Milford |
| W. Lohan | Brookfield |
| M. Gaffey | Brookfield |

Absent:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| S. Kluge | New Milford |
| E. Siergiej | Danbury |
| J. Murphy | Brookfield |

M. Howarth, Executive Director

J. Neil Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

J. Usher, CLA Administrative Coordinator

Recorder: J. Usher

Guests: There were approximately 35-40 members of the public.

Chairman, Phyllis Schaer called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:35pm at Brookfield Town Hall Brookfield, CT.

Ms. Schaer reminded everyone of the two- minute limit to speaking. The letter to FERC from the CLA will be posted on the CLA website soon.

Public Comment:

The following people spoke about the Candlewood Isle dock expansion application to FERC:

Roberta P Anderson
David Brand
Mark Casella
Khris Hall
John Glynn

Pat Callahan
Carl Anderson

Secretary's Report

Marianne Gaffey discussed the CLA moving to a consent agenda format. The board was supportive, and we will work out details as we look to transition to this format. The CLA is no longer including letters, submitted public comment etc. in its minutes. Those documents however, will be kept on file as part of the public record.

Joan Archer made a motion to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes, with Jeff Main seconding the motion with all in favor except Chris Robinson who abstained.

Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol:

Joe Wodarski informed the delegates that this coming weekend, the CLAMP would be conducting interviews all day Saturday and Sunday for hiring additional patrol officers.

Chairman's Report:

The Strategy Session originally scheduled for Jan. 11th has been postponed. The Board will be polled via email to select a replacement date that allows more delegates to attend.

The Executive Committee approved funding for a consultant to assist the CLA with the bookkeeping transition through the end of this fiscal year.

Bill Lohan made a motion to transfer \$7,000 from the Equipment and Facilities operations manager line 210 to the Professional Services Line 118, with Jeff Main seconding and all voting in favor.

The CLA extended condolences on the passing of Al Parente on Dec. 23, 2019. Al and his family have owned and operated Down the Hatch Restaurant on Candlewood Lake for 43 years. He was a past member of the Candlewood Lake Authority.

Vice-Chairman's Report: Vice Chairman, Mark Toussaint
Refer to Watershed Committee report.

Treasurer's Report:

No report this month.

Executive Director's Report:

We are scheduling budget meetings with the municipalities.

Written and electronic appeals were sent out in December. The online store was busy this holiday season. Mr. Howarth and Doug Cushnie have begun planning for hiring a new Operations Manager. HR committee will assist with the hiring of this position. This committee includes Mark Howarth, Doug Cushnie, Bill Licht, Bill Lohan, Neil Stalter and Dan Rosemark. Jeannine Usher will receive and process the resumes. An HR special meeting will be scheduled.

Mr. Howarth discussed holding an annual meeting with all the town CEOs. Sherman's First Selectman, Don Lowe is willing to help set this meeting up if the board so wished. The board thought that Mr. Lowe would be a good person to do this.

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education:

Mr. Stalter discussed the meeting he attended regarding the septic tank study on Candlewood Shores peninsula. Mr. Stalter will email the delegates materials from this meeting. A letter was sent to the town CEO's about the boat decontamination unit. Mr. Stalter and Steve Kluge are working on a lake management plan meeting in February. A meeting with First Light to discuss Lake Management Plan data.

Bill Lohan made a motion for Neil Stalter to send the nuisance plant report comments letter to FirstLight, with Mark Touissant seconding the motion, and all voting in favor.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee:

Please see above.

Equipment/Facilities Committee:

Mr. Cushnie will follow up on the Steiger and call Echo Bay Marina. He is working with Mr. Howarth on the hiring of the Operations Manager. Buoys need to be addressed.

Public Awareness Committee:

The committee is working on goals.

Watershed Management Committee:

The Watershed Management committee met on Dec. 18th. We discussed the 2020 lake monitoring plan, and a few issues with lab samples received this past year. Mr. Stalter is working with the lab to make sure they are ready for next year's monitoring.

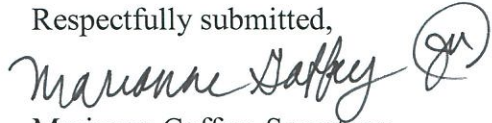
ADJOURN

Chris Robinson made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bill Lohan, with all voting in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:00pm.

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Mr. Stalter to send nuisance plant letter.
2. Schedule a special meeting for HR committee to discuss Ops Manager position
3. Mr. Howarth to contact Don Lowe to arrange a meeting with town CEO's
4. Ms. Usher to process budget line transfer.
5. Send an email to delegates regarding dates of Strategy Session

Respectfully submitted,



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.*



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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January 8, 2020
Executive Director
Mark Howarth

Monthly Report

- **2020/2021 Budget:**

- **Budget Narrative:** As in the past, we wrote a 2-page budget narrative to compliment the budget request we send to the towns. This narrative goes into more detail about the work the CLA does and provides some further explanation about our budget and the request.
- We submitted our approved budget request, along with the budget narrative, to the municipalities.
- We are working to schedule our budget meetings/presentations with our municipalities.

- **2019 Appeal**

- **Written Appeal:** Our written appeal was mailed out to area residents and we are starting to see donations come back in response to that mailing.
- **Electronic Appeal:** We sent out an electronic appeal at the end of December in an effort to reach another audience as well as remind people that they there was still time to donate in 2019. That appeal also generated donations.

- **Online Store**

- Following the promotion of our online store in December we saw a huge increase in orders which meant we were picking, packing and shipping orders to residents during an especially busy shopping week. Our top seller this year was undoubtedly the new “sweatshirt blanket” we created.

- **Payroll Service**

- We are happy to have completed the transition to our new payroll service and they have been very helpful.

- **Operations Manager Position**

- In anticipation for the spring season, we are working to fill the open operations manager position. Doug Cushnie and I met, discussed the position and listed the requirements and skills we will be looking for in our ideal candidate. We will be

Candlewood Lake means
lifelong memories
with family and friends...

Last days to give for 2019!

With support from you and others who
love Candlewood Lake we can...

...continue our efforts to keep milfoil under control by integrating our grass carp program with the winter drawdowns.
...help keep the boating public safe with our professional Marine Patrol.
...work on new ways to improve our water quality.

Please consider donating to the Candlewood Lake Authority to help protect Candlewood Lake for future generations.

Your financial support will help ensure that the Candlewood Lake Authority can respond to the ever-changing challenges here on Candlewood Lake, as we make every effort to preserve and protect this beautiful lake and wonderful natural resource.

Thank you for your support!

Visit us at www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org or click to donate online.

Checks may be made out to CLA and sent to us at PO Box 37, Sherman, CT 06784

DONATE

generating an ad to post for applicants to respond to so that we can move to the interview phase of the hiring process.



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J. Neil Stalter

Director of Ecology and Environmental Education

Candlewood Lake Authority

Re: January Meeting: Monthly Report

Date: 1/8/2020

- Assisted Mark in updating our mailing list for the 2019-2020 appeal letter.
- Wrote CLA comments in response to the submitted 2019 draft Nuisance Plant Monitoring Report from FirstLight. Those are attached to this report and will be voted on for approval to send to FirstLight for inclusion in their edits and final submission to FERC.
- Wrote CLA comments in response to submitted Application for Community Dock expansion by FirstLight on behalf of Candlewood Isle. Those are also attached to the end of this report.
- Visited the Brookfield WPCA to have a meeting and debrief regarding their ongoing septic tank study on the Candlewood Shores Peninsula. There were many other lake professionals at the meeting who discussed their thoughts about the preliminary results and what that means for Candlewood Lake. The final report will be completed in the coming months.
- Wrote and mailed a letter to all the town CEOs and DEEP to go over our current roadblocks to deploying the boat washing station – we have requested that they respond to us if there is a location in their municipality that they feel would be a good candidate for the program.
- Ongoing organization of our Lake Management Plan process, including scheduling meetings, and establishing official committee appointees from each municipality and private sector members, and reviewing best practices for LMP development.
- Continuing to add to our historical water quality database organization efforts.

- Wrote and mailed a letter to each Municipal CEO regarding our request for funding the CAES reporting of the 2018/2019 plant monitoring of Candlewood Lake.
- Planning new watershed management and public awareness programs and projects for 2020.



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To: Kimberly Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street N.E., Mail Code PJ-12.1
Washington, DC 20426

Candlewood Lake Authority Comments in Response to FirstLight CT Housatonic LLC's Submitted Application for Approval of Non-Project Use of Project Lands – Expansion of Existing Community Marina

Project Number: 2576-187

The Candlewood Lake Authority has had the opportunity to review the recently submitted “Application for Approval of Non-Project Use of Project Lands – Expansion of Existing Community Marina” submitted by FirstLight CT Housatonic LLC (FirstLight) on November 25th, 2019. We have reviewed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s (FERC) subsequent request for additional information submitted on December 12th, 2019. Having completed this review, we would like to submit this short letter both supporting the questions asked by FERC in their additional information request, as well as bringing all the parties’ attention to a few other questions and concerns we have as this process continues.

- I. We would like to directly echo FERC’s first item requiring additional information. We too were surprised to read the statement “the Commission approved the proposed updated SMP with modifications in August 2019, including removing of the limitation on community dock expansions based on its approval of the Boat Overcrowding Plan.”¹
 - a. We did not address boat overcrowding directly in the process of commenting on and preparing the SMP *because* of the existence of the Boat Overcrowding plan which, as stated by FERC, “superseded”

¹ Housatonic River Project No. 2576 application for Approval of Non-Project Use of Project Lands – Expansion of Existing Community Marina, FirstLight, November 25, 2019. P. 3

the boat overcrowding and land conservation program sections of the SMP.²

- b. This statement comes right after FirstLight states in the application that the Boat Overcrowding Plan “Included... a prohibition on future increases in capacity at marinas and community docks that do not interfere with private property rights” (p. 2).
- c. We would like to reaffirm that these regulations still exist in spite of the fact that the “boat overcrowding” section was not included in the approved 2019 SMP and appreciate FERC’s request for clarification of this issue.
 - i. We know that the Overcrowding Plan was created to prevent unfettered expansion of large docks all around the lake; we are concerned about the precedent an increase of this magnitude would set for the many other communities and marinas around the lake.

II. We would also like to draw attention to, and potentially revisit, another claim made in the application.

- a. As justification for an increase in the community dock size, FirstLight includes results from their 2014 flyover, saying: “...on the peak day of July 6, 2014, a total of 570 boats were on the water... 239 of these were underway and another 331 were not. In general, the 331 boats not underway were not docked boats, but rather were boats clumped together in stationary parties and not boats underway. 239 boats underway is well below Candlewood Lake’s carrying capacity of 452 boats underway” (p. 2-3).
- b. While we appreciate that the Lake’s carrying capacity is defined in the Overcrowding Plan as “...arriving at 448 to 452 boats underway on the water”³, we feel that completely ignoring stationary boats in assessments of carrying capacity is a mistake. It only takes a second for a stationary boat to become a boat underway.
 - i. We also appreciate that there is not a true consensus on how carrying capacity calculations should generally be made³ – but stationary and rafting boats clearly affect the ability of other boats to navigate the water, and while they may reduce user conflict when compared to if they were underway, they

² Order Modifying and Approving Shoreline Management Plan Pursuant to Article 407, US Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, August 12, 2019. P. 3.

³ Candlewood Lake Overcrowding Plan Housatonic River Project No. 2576-150, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, March 27, 2014. P. 3

certainly can increase user conflict when compared to that boat not being on the water in the first place.

- ii. We would like to point out that stationary boats were counted as contributing to the total in the overcrowding plan based upon the 2008 aerial flight data. As seen on page 8 of the plan, in every date there is no distinction made between stationary and boats underway, meaning that the lake regularly exceeded the carrying capacity based on the 2008 survey (the mean total being 473 vessels, which is described as “exceeding” the carrying capacity of 450 vessels.⁴
 - c. Based on the above, we would like to suggest two things in regard to this overcrowding analysis:
 - i. The current state of overcrowding on Candlewood Lake should be based upon the analysis of modern flyover data scheduled to be collected during the summer of 2020, rather than outdated data from 2014.
 - ii. We would like to convene the “Lake Advisory Committee” as described in the Overcrowding Plan as meeting annually⁵ to discuss how carrying capacity is calculated, overcrowding is assessed, and how stationary and rafting boats contribute to those calculations.
- III. The provided maps, while giving detail about the size, shape, and orientation of the docks, do not give a full picture of the cove that the docks are being placed in.
- a. We would suggest that updated maps and figures be included in the application, specifically for the tennis court location, that illustrate: the opposite side of the cove (and the distance between that and the proposed docks), the “sandbar” or navigational hazard located in roughly the middle of the cove, and the proposed and accepted change that DEEP suggested – the one dock “finger” being reduced in length from 5 to 3 sections.
 - b. These updated maps would help answer some of our questions about how the proposed docks would impact navigation in the cove.

⁴ Candlewood Lake Overcrowding Plan Housatonic River Project No. 2576-150, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, March 27, 2014. P. 8

⁵ Candlewood Lake Overcrowding Plan Housatonic River Project No. 2576-150, FirstLight Hydro Generating Company, March 27, 2014. P. 40

Respectfully submitted,

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Howarth', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Howarth
Executive Director
/JNS



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To: John Howard
Director of Connecticut Operations
FirstLight Power Resources
P.O Box 5002
New Milford Connecticut, 06776

Candlewood Lake Authority Comments in Response to FirstLight Housatonic LLC's Submitted 2019 Nuisance Plant Monitoring Report

Project Number: 2576-058

January 8, 2020

Thank you to FirstLight Power Resources for delivering the draft “2019 Monitoring Report” subsequent to the Article 409 Nuisance Plant Monitoring Plan for FERC project p-2576 to us for the 30-day comment period before filing. Let us also express how pleased we are, and how much positive feedback we’ve received from the public, regarding the state of the nuisance plants in Candlewood Lake this year following a deep drawdown during the winter of 2018 and with the addition of the sterile grass carp.

Below, see our comments on the draft monitoring report for 2019:

- I. We are pleased with the improvements seen in the report this year and appreciate the added detail; particularly in the materials and methods section, which makes clear exactly how the monitoring was done, and the report and analysis was created.
- II. We note one inaccuracy in the report. On pages 7 and 30, there are various tables and graphs with previous years’ results. The 2014 total acreage in all of

these tables and graphs in the report is reported as 447 acres, when it was actually measured at the time to be 477 acres¹.

- III. In last year's draft version of the report², on page 28 there were two graphs: one of frequency of percent cover, and one of percentage of milfoil growth forms – these are both informative and interesting. The growth form information is particularly useful for us in evaluating our ongoing sterile grass carp program. There was also a graph on p. 40 evaluating drawdown efficacy using the inner edge of milfoil that we also found particularly interesting.
- a. It's clear from your report that you continued to measure these metrics, but these graphs and the information contained in them are not included in the report. We request that this information be added again, whether in the report or in an attached appendix.
- IV. Once again, in 2019, there was no spring (June) Curly-leaf Pondweed survey done in Candlewood Lake or Squantz Pond.
- a. This is a note that was addressed before, and in response to our comments on the 2018 monitoring, FirstLight responded "FirstLight plans to survey for curleyleaf [sic] in 2019"³. In the bid received from Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), they state that they will do "One Survey of Candlewood Lake in early June to map Curly-leaf Pondweed."⁴
- i. Apart from mentioning Curly-leaf pondweed as a species included in the late August/early September monitoring, there is no mention in this draft of the promised June Survey. The table on p. 7 also indicates that there were no days spent on the water in June to search for Curly-leaf pondweed.
- ii. We are disappointed that a piece of the monitoring that was lacking last year, and was promised to be included this year, is once again missing. If this was not included in the report in error, then we request that information be added back in.

¹ Monitoring Report: Invasive Aquatic Plants, Candlewood Lake, Lake Lillinonah, Lake Zoar 2014. Gregory Bugbee et al. January 28, 2014. P. 9

² 2018 Monitoring Report: Article 409 Nuisance Plant Monitoring of Lakes; Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar, Second Review Draft. Northeast Aquatic Research, February 2019. P. 28, 40

³ 2018 Monitoring Report: Article 409 Nuisance Plant Monitoring of Lakes; Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar. Northeast Aquatic Research, May 3, 2019. Attachment D: Stakeholder Consultation Records, P. 8

⁴ 2018 Monitoring Report: Article 409 Nuisance Plant Monitoring of Lakes; Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar. Northeast Aquatic Research, May 3, 2019. Attachment C: Vendor Qualifications, P. 1

Respectfully submitted,

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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Mark Howarth
Executive Director
/JNS