



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

P.O. BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CONNECTICUT 06784-0037 • (860) 354-6928 • FAX (860) 350-5611

Minutes of Meeting July 13, 2011

Attending:

H. Berger	Sherman
P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
H. Mayer	New Milford
M Toussaint	New Milford
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
F. Cioffi	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
G. Dufel	Danbury
E. Siergiej	Danbury

Absent:

M. Calandrino	Danbury
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Guendelsberger	New Milford

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator

Recorder: M. Toussaint

Guests: D. Gilbert – CT Bass Federation Nation
M. Propper, Danbury
D. Marsillio, Danbury
J & S Wodarski, CLUB-A

Howie Berger, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:31 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. He welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Mr. Berger reported that Secretary, Rich Stroh has resigned from the CLA. He thanked Mr. Stroh for all the work he had done on the Public Safety Committee and the Authority. He then reported that Gary Dufel will be leaving the CLA as he will be taking a work assignment in Australia for four years. His expertise on land use issues has been invaluable, he will be missed. Best of Luck and thank you for all your efforts on behalf of the CLA.

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DANBURY TOWN CLERK

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BY: *MMC*

Phyllis Schaer moved to accept the minutes of the June 8, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by Harold Mayer and voted with all in favor, minutes have been accepted.

Chairman's Report – Howie Berger, advised that two weeks before the end of the fiscal year, June 30th, John Hodge spoke to John Shue of FirstLight Power Resources (FLPR) regarding the annual contribution to the CLA. He was advised that the CLA would not be receiving its annual contribution, not this year and probably not subsequent years – it was viewed as another tax. Mr. Shue spoke to Larry Marsicano, Executive Director about 5 days before the end of the fiscal year and he was told that FLPR would be making a fifteen thousand dollar contribution instead of the historical 1/6th of the annual budget, the same amount allocated by each of the lake Towns. He advised that FLPR was interested in funding specific programs and looking for an improved public perception. Mr. Berger noted that he sent a letter expressing an opinion of the timeframe of the FLPR contribution. Mr. Berger noted that he sent a letter expressing an opinion of the timeframe of the FLPR contribution. He has had no comment or feedback from Mr. Shue to date. He noted that waiting days before the end of our fiscal year to advise the CLA of this policy change which had been in place for such a long period of time is a bad business practice especially since FLPR is benefiting to the tune of two hundred thousand dollars a year by what the CLA does that is required under the FERC license. Mr. Berger thanked Mr. Hodge for the letter he wrote on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield to FERC withdrawing support for the SMP. There was a press release and a number of articles in the local news. *The News Times* provided, and the CLA accepted, the opportunity to submit an opinion piece in the Op/Ed section, and they gave FLPR thumbs down for this action. The CLA thanks *The News Times* for their support. Mr. Marsicano advised that Mr. Shue of FLPR had read the CLA's electronic news and emailed him about a meeting next week. A meeting has been scheduled for 9AM on Wednesday, July 20th – location to be determined. Discussion followed. It was noted that under the FERC license the Utility is required to provide for the "recreational quality and safety on the lake". Therefore, if in the current economic climate it was not the CLA or the DEEP (Department of Energy and Environmental Protection), then it would have to be FLPR. Discussion continued. It was noted that with the new management at FLPR the CLA is willing to give them the benefit of the doubt that they were unaware of what the CLA does that they themselves may be required to do. John Hodge, speaking as the First Selectman of New Fairfield, noted that the CLA needs to get the annual contribution reinstated and to get in writing an agreement that they will continue to contribute. Discussion continued. Phyllis Schaer made a motion that the CLA meet with FLPR Wednesday (July 20th) prior to the HVCEO meeting and reach an agreement that is satisfactory to both the CLA and FLPR to continue contributing funding and if they do not agree, taking appropriate action as discussed, seconded by John Hodge. Discussion followed. Mrs. Schaer amended her motion to include "the funding commitment of FLPR should be a permanent written agreement to honor their obligations to contribute 1/6th (same as the five lake towns) of the approved CLA budget annually. Amendment seconded by John Hodge. Discussion of how recourse involving FERC would go followed. With no further discussion the motion was voted with all in favor.

Mr. Hodge reported that he has spoken to some of the other towns and they will not be kicking in any additional funds to cover the shortfall created by FLPR.

Mr. Marsicano reported that he has been in contact with Congressman Murphy's District Director, Rob Michalik, who advised that he has been in contact with FLPR regarding this.

Mr. Berger reported on the Project CLEAR presentation this year – there were in excess of one hundred students and it is amazing to see how the program has evolved from their first year with students who were apprehensive to today's group of budding scientists – this is a program that was begun the CLA in one local school district and now includes five. It is model for education in the ecology of the lake and an example of what the CLA does for the community at large. Mr. Berger thanked Mr. Marsicano for a wonderful program.

Vice-Chairman's Report: Mark Toussaint, Vice Chairman, noted that there was no report.

Treasurer's Report: Phyllis Schaer, Treasurer, noted that she will keep up to date on the FLPR contribution and as it is the end of the fiscal year there is no June report as the CLA is preparing for its annual audit. She then made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the month ended May 31, 2011 as presented, seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor. The Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the month ended May 31, 2011 has been accepted and filed for audit.

Gary Dufel asked when will a revised budget be prepared if FLPR does not contribute the full 1/6th. Discussion followed and it was noted that a proposed revised budget would be prepared prior to the August CLA meeting.

Executive Director: Larry Marsicano noted that his report is attached to these minutes. He reviewed the items in his written report: Zebra Mussels, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Land Use Issues @ Pine Island and Cedar Drive in Danbury, Project CLEAR, Public Safety, need to upgrade computer software, and more. He reported that he had received an application from New Milford Park and Recreation to redo the location of the buoys at their Town Park. The application will be turned over to the Public Safety Committee for review, comment and recommendations to be brought back to the full CLA for a vote. He noted that he would be visiting the Connecticut Bass Federation Nation Tournament of the lake this coming weekend.

Public Education Director: In the absence of Mark Howarth his report is attached to these minutes.

Public Safety: With the resignation of Rich Stroh this committee is without a chair. Frank Cioffi had the notes of the last Public Safety Committee meeting. Frances Frattini read the notes, which included the following items:

- Waiting for hold harmless letter for Sherman before they can appoint the special constables.

- The Patrol dock in New Fairfield – Boats docked there
- Insurance of (CLAMP Officer's) personal boats for fireworks
- Polygraph appointments for the patrol officers
- Sherman said "Thank You" for the Patrol boat in the Memorial Day parade.
- Mr. Stroh advised that he would be resigning from the CLA.

Mr. Cioffi added that a new company had been found for background checks and that new uniform shirts for the Lake Patrol had been ordered.

Public Awareness: Mark Toussaint, Committee Chairman, noted that the main focus now is the Dragon Boat Race on August 20th

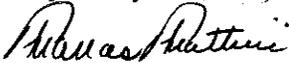
Equipment/Facilities: Ed Siergiej, Committee Chairman, reported that everything is in good shape.

Watershed Management: Harold Mayer, Committee Chairman, advised they had met but most of the meeting was discussion about FLPR's decision not to contribute the 1/6th.

Mr. Mayer commented on remarks from Mark Propper at the June meeting to set up another public forum on milfoil. Discussion followed on drawdown to control the milfoil and the preliminary report of Dr. George Knoecklein who advised New Fairfield that it is clear to **not do annual** deep drawdowns until he has more information – his research is continuing. Mr. Berger noted that "effective" drawdown whether deep or shallow can help to control milfoil. Now the CLA has begun looking at the historical shallow drawdown data to find the effective model. Discussion continued, noting that the drawdown needs to follow the "effective" model. Dave Marsillio asked why a deep drawdown could not be 15 feet and a shallow one be 9 feet – he understood that the Utility would need to get permission to go more than 10 feet. Discussion continued.

Old/New Business: Mr. Berger thanked everyone and with no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Harold Mayer moved to adjourn, seconded by John Hodge. Meeting adjourned at 9:19 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/hb

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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***Executive Director's Report
July 8, 2011
Larry Marsicano***

The following report summarizes activities June 3, 2011 to July 8, 2011.

ZEBRA MUSSELS

Zebra mussel veliger sampling began in June with several collections made to date at the Candlewood Lake and Housatonic River site at Boardman's Bridge and one collection performed at the sites in Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar. Results of analyses of the first Candlewood Lake sample were negative, but positive at the Housatonic River at Boardman's Bridge site. The positive result still requires additional verifications to ensure it is not a false positive result (e.g. observations of ostracods). Results from analyses of other collections are forthcoming.

Following our initial contact with Congressman Murphy's office, we worked with one of his staff, Jesse Young, in looking for technical assistance. Mr. Young put us in contact with researchers on Lake Champlain, Dr. Ellen Marsden and Meg Modley, who are reviewing our situation and providing consultation on rapid response recommendations.

We coordinated our third Invasive Investigator training program on Saturday, June 18th held at the Community Room in New Fairfield. We have continued to work with all those trained to schedule them at the launches around the lake.

We received great assistance from the USGS in the development of a map for the publication Mark is finishing up.

We continue to work with our public relations / media consultant, George Linkletter, who has saturated the market with zebra mussel press releases. We are working with him on a Charter Community Access program on zebra mussels. This may develop into a series of programs on Candlewood Lake related topics.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

First Selectman John Hodge successfully solicited contributions from a number of the member municipalities to fund additional milfoil weevil research on Candlewood Lake. Afterwards we coordinated with EnviroScience to schedule a visit. On June 29th we transported EnviroScience technicians to the site inside Patrol Cove that was stocked last year where a pre-stocking assessment of the milfoil was conducted followed by the stocking of ~9,000 organisms. EnviroScience also performed an assessment of the site in the Sail Harbour section of the lake; and will perform a post-stocking assessment at

the end of the season. We coordinated/facilitated the monitoring of both sites by the WCSU students who started their work on Saturday, July 9th.

Harold Mayer and I attended the June 16th presentation by Dr. George Knoecklein's to the New Fairfield Selectmen entitled "*Evaluation of the Effects of Winter Water Level Drawdown on the Ecology of Candlewood Lake.*" Dr. Knoecklein's conclusion was that we do not know enough to say that annual drawdowns would have no measurable adverse impact on the lake and therefore did not recommend an annual drawdown program at this time. Much of the analyses Dr. Knoecklein performed was done using the water quality database we have been assembling since 1983. Dr. Knoecklein's presentation is available on the CLA website under "*Publications and Documents*" under "*Information Resources.*"

LAND USE ISSUES

On June 9th we were asked by New Fairfield to assist in documenting conditions on Pine Islands. We participated in a tour conducted on June 10th and using our GPS-enabled camera, photographed a number of uses on Pine Island that the Enforcement staff had concerns with. The data the camera produces includes photos that are stamped with coordinates and associated files that can be transferred to our GIS, resulting in maps with approximate locations of where photos were taken. These points on a digital map are hot-linked to the actual photos. Using those files and photographs and our GIS system, we produced, and later delivered on June 15th, a 10 page report. A copy will be passed around at our meeting.

We received site plans for 21 Cedar Drive, Danbury. Plans were reviewed by CLA Delegate Gary Dufel and comments will be submitted this week.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

CLA conducted water quality monitoring on June 21st on Candlewood Lake and on June 24th on Squantz Pond. Bacteria concentrations continue to be monitored weekly with any results exceeding the State thresholds being reported to the appropriate authorities.

EDUCATION / PROJECT CLEAR

From June 26th thru June 30th, the field research component of Project CLEAR took place on the lake. Prior to that, we assembled a research vessel fleet consisting of twenty boats including the CLA's Ark and Steiger, pontoon boats from Echo Bay and Gerard's Waters Edge Marinas, and vessels owned by members of the lake community. Several CLA Delegates (F. Cioffi & B. Lohan) and other lake community members volunteered considerable time during the week, as did CLA staff, transporting students about the lake to collect samples and other data on the lake.

Other notable donations included two cases of PFDs donated by Karl and Carol Selig of Candlewood SeaTow, the use of a pontoon from Monday thru Thursday by Gerard's Waters Edge Marina, and the time of members from the Newtown Underwater Search and Rescue Team.

On the evening of Thursday, June 30th, a presentation took place at the Sherman School where CLEAR students were able to share their experience with family and friends. District Director Robert Michalik, on behalf of US Congressman Chris Murphy addressed the students. At that presentation, Abby Peklo of Education Connection announced that the Interdistrict Grant Program of the CT Department of Education, and therefore the Project CLEAR funding, was in jeopardy of being cut. We have received no word regarding the fate of those funds.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Progress has been made in fully utilizing the powers given to our POST certified officers by getting those officers who are not members of police departments in our member municipalities appointed as a special constable. The Town of Sherman expressed interest in making those special appointments provided they were provided a letter indemnifying them of any actions related to these appointments. A letter was crafted by our attorney, and provided to the First Selectman, who, after several additional correspondences, will ask the Selectmen to approve the appointments of special constable at the next Selectmen's meeting on July 28th.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES

We incurred problems with Mark Howarth's Outlook. The problem is due in large part to the MS Office software being dated. We need to upgrade Office software in the office. I have tried, unsuccessfully so far, to utilize our relationship with the Business and Industry Foundation of Western CT to obtain the software at affordable pricing. We need to resolve this soon.

FIRSTLIGHT POWER SUPPORT OF OPERATING BUDGET

During the week of June 20th, we learned that FirstLight did not plan on making its contribution at the same level it has in the past for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. I spoke with Mr. John Shue of FirstLight Power who shared reasons for the change; shared his lack of knowledge on what the CLA does; and expressed a willingness to meet with us later this month to learn of what we do. Mr. Shue was sensitive to the timing of this decision, so they were going to send a check for \$15,000 dollars, which we have received. Since 1985 the power company matched the appropriation of each of the five towns (~\$60,000 dollars for last fiscal year). This change by the power company was not well-received and there has been considerable media coverage on this. It also prompted the Town of New Fairfield to submit to FERC a letter withdrawing their support of the SMP. The HVCEO is having a meeting on Thursday, July 21st, with this issue on its agenda.

OTHER

On June 8th we provided a tour of the CLA's Buffer Garden to the Sherman Garden Club. Garden Club members learned of the history of the garden, the importance of vegetated shorelines to healthy lakes, the reasons behind the selection of plants. Our demonstration, vegetated shoreline was one of the first of its kind in the State of CT.

Governor Malloy signed a proclamation at the request of Representative Clark Chapin on behalf of the CT Federation of Lakes

On June 9th representatives of Union Savings visited the office to present their sponsorship check.

An adult bald eagle was sited perched in trees on Vaughn's Neck in the afternoon on Monday, July 4th.



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July 13, 2011
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Project CLEAR:

The week of Project CLEAR at the end of June was a successful week. The CLA staff was on hand that week working with the program. I had the EMT as well as the program director, Alberto Mimo, on board my boat for the field days. We visited the various groups out on the Lake and Alberto assisted them with their research. I also documented the groups and students via photo and video doing their research and created a slideshow/video from the week and that video is available on our website under the Video Library link of our Information Resources tab. I also designed new t-shirts for the Project CLEAR kids this year with a saying, "Great teachers, cool subjects and an awesome classroom" on the front.

E-Newsletter:

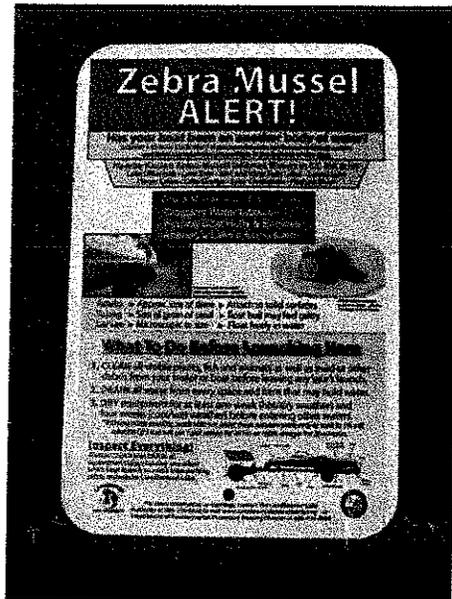
We have completed a new e-newsletter for the month of July. Topics include the Clean Up wrap up, draw down study, weevil stocking update, dragon boat races, Marine Patrol, zebra mussel monitoring and Project CLEAR wrap up, among others.

Zebra Mussels:

Zebra Mussel Task Force:

We received permission from CT DEP to put three of our large "Zebra Mussel Alert" signs at the two State launches on Candlewood (Squantz Cove and Lattins Cove) as well as one at Squantz Pond State Park's launch. We just received word today they are ready for pick up and we will be installing them shortly to help increase awareness at those ramps.

We received delivery of the smaller (12x18 inch) aluminum zebra mussel signs from the DEP. These were signs that we designed and they had made. These signs have been distributed to all of the marinas around the lake and they are being encouraged and offered free to the lake communities and other areas with ramps to be posted.



On Saturday, June 18th, we hosted another Invasive Investigator training. I was on hand to assist the DEP for the training that morning, which was held at the New Fairfield Community Room in the Senior Center.

Dragon Boat Race:

2011 Dragon Boat Race planning is going along well. We have been working alongside New Milford Park & Recreation to incorporate any recommended changes or improvements from last year's event. Teams are registering at this time and we hope we can sell out at 20 teams for this year. We will be looking for more volunteers this year to help out with setup the day before, and especially on race day, August 20th. We are also looking to incorporate some new features into the event this year to improve the event as it grows in size and popularity.