



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 8, 2015

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
H. Berger	Sherman
G. Linkletter	Sherman
J. Wodarski	New Milford
P. Eng	New Milford
W. Lohan	Brookfield
B. Brown	Brookfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
J. Keating	New Fairfield

Absent:

M. Toussaint	New Milford
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
D. Rosemark	Danbury
C. Robinson	Danbury

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director
 F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator
 M. Howarth, CLA Public Education Director
 D. Vane, CLAMP Chief

Recorder: H. Berger

Guests: S. Wodarski, New Milford, D. Eng, New Milford and
M. Propper, Danbury

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Jul 13
JUN 13 2015

12:00 PM
 o'clock Map # _____
 TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
 DANBURY, CONN.
 Town Clerk

Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:37 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Howie Berger, Secretary, noted that he had no changes to the minutes of the June 10, 2015 regular meeting. *John Hodge made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 13, 2015 regular meeting as written, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor with the exception of George Linkletter who abstained. Minutes have been accepted as written.*

Chairman's Report: Mrs. Schaer thanked all the delegates for making the Grass Carp stocking possible and especially those that were physically involved. It was a heartwarming and fruitful event and a special thank you to the Town of New Fairfield for hosting the ceremonies. There was a wonderful response from the local communities and residents. This week she and Mr. Marsicano spoke at the Candlewood Lake Club where there were many questions and discussion on the Grass Carp, Buffer Gardens and many lake related issues. She reminded the delegates that she is available to speak to any of the lake communities. Jerry Murphy advised that it was terrific having them there and the residents were very involved in the discussions and he gave them a heartfelt thank you on behalf of Candlewood Lake Club. Mrs. Schaer reported that she has met the new station Manager for FirstLight, Howard Pearson, who will be replacing Richard Laudenant. She noted that they had discussed areas of compatibility and where the CLA and FirstLight can work together on projects. She reported that she had spoken to Echo Bay

Marina about fuel costs and they were supportive on a possible discount. She had attended the Public Safety Committee meeting and reported that they are looking to develop a closer rapport with the patrol – suggestions were to highlight the officers to show who they are and what they do, not only on the lake but also off the lake since they are a very diverse group of officers who come from all walks of life. She had attended the Ball Pond meeting and obtained a lot of good Grass Carp information noting that the fish are shy and will try to avoid contact with people. After the meeting Mrs. Schaer noted that she thinks Grass Carp in Candlewood was a good decision. She reported that there had been complaints from a neighbor about Sherman Base and she had met with the Chairman of Sherman Park and Recreation and the First Selectman to observe the situation and suggest remedies. She reported that FERC had approved the buffer re-vegetation as recommended at the LAC to help speed up the re-vegetation of the shoreline. The Town of Brookfield has offered a site to the CLA for use as their office for \$1.00 per year – its needs to be finished up. A site visit will be arranged and if any delegates are interested they should let Mrs. Schaer know. Discussion on a number of questions followed. Mrs. Schaer described the building and noted that Brookfield needed to find an occupant that would be a low impact use. She has spoken to Sri Madusadon from NU regarding the bench for Harold Mayer; she was advised that a few internal details need to be worked out before a location can be sited. Mrs. Schaer and Mr. Marsicano continue to work with Brookfield on the decontamination wash station.

Vice Chairman's Report: In the absence of the Vice Chairman, there was no report.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Lohan, Treasurer, reported that a preliminary June 30, 2015 report had been compiled and is subject to audit. The numbers appear that the CLA will end the year with receipts in excess of expenditures. Cash on hand is in excess of the cash at the end of the last fiscal year. Numbers will be adjusted by the Auditor to the accrual basis but he believes that the CLA will still end the year positive. Discussion followed on the past fiscal year. Mr. Lohan reported that the Finance Committee has recommended that the CLA seek bids for the audit and the RFP will go out shortly to at least three eligible firms.

The Appropriation for 2015/2016 was brought up for discussion. It was noted that the CLA wants to thank the area Towns and local legislators for their efforts in getting FLPR to restore their funding to the \$50,000 level for this fiscal year. Mrs. Schaer reported on the approved appropriations of the Towns as follows:

Brookfield \$84,636; Danbury \$74,636; New Fairfield \$57,000; New Milford \$69,636; and Sherman \$80,000.

The original request as voted on by the Delegates was for \$74,636 per town but after the CLA had learned that FLPR had cut their funding to \$10,000 Mrs. Schaer had written to all the Town CEO's, as suggested by the Executive Committee, advising them of this and that the CLA would need additional funds over the original request – the Towns of Brookfield and Sherman did appropriate additional funds, but after FLPR restored the funding it appears that the additional funds would not be necessary. Discussion followed. It was noted that with the budget number for the Public Safety radios which had been purchased last fiscal year with a grant that number could be reduced in this fiscal year. Discussion continued, noting that the CLA appreciates what the Towns have done in supporting the CLA during this time but believe that the original amount will cover expenses for the 2105/16 fiscal year. Discussion continued. John Hodge noted that the \$74,636 that was voted on and approved by the delegates should be the number and Howie Berger agreed with Mr. Hodge. Mr. Berger noted that the CLA should strive for the Towns to fund the operations of the Lake Authority and not fund raise for the operating expenses but use fund raising for the extras or capital items/projects. George Linkletter agreed the Authority should not be fundraising for operating expenses that should come from the towns. Discussion continued. Mrs. Schaer asked if there could be an approval for the additional funds after the fact

– the opinion was no. Jack Keating noted that the CLA in good faith should stick with the original number. With no further discussion, *John Hodge moved to approve that the original \$74,636 per town appropriation be billed for the 2015/16 fiscal year, seconded by Jerry Murphy.* Discussion – It is the Towns’ obligation to cover the operating expenses, possibly ask the Towns that had approved higher appropriations to see if they would disburse these funds to the CLA for a Capital Non Recurring fund that would be held separate from the operating funds. With no further discussion, *the motion was voted with all in favor, motion carried.* Mrs. Schaer will prepare a letter to be sent along with the bills.

Executive Director: Mr. Marsicano’s report is attached to these minutes. He reported that Project CLEAR had another very successful session. He has estimated the value of the volunteer time (boat captains, drivers, etc) to be around seven thousand dollars and over ninety one thousand dollars over the 13 years that Project CLEAR has been conducted. He provided everyone a copy of the program for the event concluding Project CLEAR listing student, teachers, volunteers and all involved. He thanked the Public Awareness Committee and Mark Howarth for all their efforts on the events at the New Fairfield Town Park regarding the release of the Grass Carp. He observed that Todd Bobowick of Rowledge Fish Farm was a pleasure to work with, that he had many contributions, was very accommodating and interacted well with the public. He also wanted to acknowledge George Buck of the Ball Pond Advisory Group and Friends of Ball Pond for all his help and knowledge on the Grass Carp. It was a very successful day. He together with Theodora Pinou, PhD of WCSU wrote a proposal to do a tracking study of the movement of the Grass Carp and fifty-five more fish will be arriving to receive transmitters. A gift from a local family foundation for the cost of the tracking equipment has been received and other expenses will be covered by the CT DEEP grant. Mr. Marsicano advised that the final 2013 – 2014 Zebra Mussel Report is available. This report details results from efforts monitoring zebra mussel proliferation in the Housatonic River basin, including in the reservoirs. He provided everyone a copy of the title page and executive summary.

Mr. Marsicano had visited the New Milford Historical Society who is preparing an exhibit on Candlewood Lake and they have invited him to speak at the opening of the exhibit. Dr. Knoecklein will be presenting his reaearch that was done for FLPR later this summer.

Public Education Director: Mark Howarth advised that his report is attached to these minutes. He noted that New Milford Village Fair Days are July 24 and 25 and volunteers are needed at the booth from 10 AM to 10 PM – he passed a sign-up sheet. He reported that in the last two weeks the CLA has picked up an additional six hundred Face Book friends – the postponement of the fireworks appears to be the main reason, even the News Times is now referring people to the CLA Face book page. He reported that the Public Awareness committee would like to see the CLA engage more of the FB followers – suggesting lake trivia games with prizes from local businesses. Also they will be working on a multi-storied e-Newsletter on the Grass Carp and another on past events such as the CleanUp and Project CLEAR. Dragon Boat Race Teams are filing up and there are still a few spots left. He then showed the Project CLEAR slide show and videos. This program has a major impact on the students, it was a great success.

Committee Reports:

Public Safety: Jerry Murphy reported that the Committee plans on expanding information that can be passed on to all. Chief Doug Vane reported on Patrol activity thus far – there have been roughly 137 boat hours (man hours would be double as most patrol are two officers), the activity included 44 verbal warnings, 4 written warnings, 8 infractions, 36 other and a total of 77 contacts with boats (to clarify, contacts may include more than one action). The PFD

loaner program was used twice thus far. He reported that the season started with 26 officers and is now down to 20 (2 have left moved and job related, 2 are on leave and 2 were hired by the Danbury PD and cannot work during their probation year – he hopes they will be permitted to return next season). Chief Vane advised that he would like to start the hiring process for next season at the end of this season. Discussion followed. Mrs. Schaer presented a schedule and asked the delegates to sign up for a ride along with the patrol.

Equipment/Facilities: Ed Siergiej reported that a small boat to replace the damaged Alumacraft has been located and will be purchased for \$800.00. He is presently ordering the material to replace the roof on ARKII. The new radios are working well for the Lake Patrol. The ten buoys covered by a FLPR grant have been ordered and half have been received, plus the buoys that DEEP replaced, have put the CLA in better shape this year.

Public Awareness: covered under Public Education Director's report.

Watershed Management Committee: Howie Berger, Committee Chair reported that next month there will be a demo on a system that will store Secchi disk data collected at town beaches and elsewhere by volunteers and make it available to CLA and town officials (e.g. Directors of Health or Park and Recreation).

Old Business/New Business: None

Any and All Business:

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, *John Hodge moved to adjourn, seconded by George Linkletter*
Meeting adjourned at 9:37 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Howie Berger, Secretary
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/lm

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 6, 2015

Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes Executive Director activities from June 8, 2015 to July 6, 2015.

Project CLEAR

From June 22nd thru 26th, the week-long field portion of Project CLEAR took place on Candlewood Lake. Over 100 high school students and teacher, another 21 volunteers, and CLA staff conducted environmental research including studies on fisheries, plankton, water quality, aquatic plant communities, lake sediments and chemistry, periphyton, aquatic insects, streams, and forests. A final presentation took place the night of June 26th and was well received by parents and other visitors. Videos created during the week were shared that night and will be shared at the board meeting.

This past program marks the thirteenth year we have collaborated with Education Connection on providing this unique and highly successful science enrichment program to lake community students. Grant funding over that time well exceeds a million dollars. Estimations on monetary value provided by volunteers this year is close to \$7,000 dollars. That estimation times the 13 years of the program's existence is approximately \$91,000 dollars.

Triploid Grass Carp Stocking

Months of work in developing a plan to release over 3,800 triploid grass carp into Candlewood Lake came to fruition on Friday, June 26th. Fish were released in ten sites around the lake starting at the Danbury launch at 8:30am. A very successful media event occurred at the third site visited, New Fairfield Town Beach site, coordinated by the Public Awareness Committee and Mark Howarth. Stocking at the last site occurred near 4pm at the Candlewood Vista community launch/beach.

Our program greatly benefited from the experience and expertise of Todd Bobowick / Rowledge Pond Aquaculture of Newtown and George Buck of the Ball Pond community of New Fairfield. Rowledge Pond Aquaculture vehicles were used to stock at many sites where the eighteen wheeler from Arkansas could not get access.

TGC Tracking Project

We continue to plan with the CT DEEP and WCSU a study to investigate the movement of the 50 triploid grass carp in Candlewood Lake using radio transmitter telemetry. A local family foundation provided funding to purchase the telemetry equipment (\$8,742.50) after the development of a study plan. A portion of the CT DEEP grant will also be used to carry out the

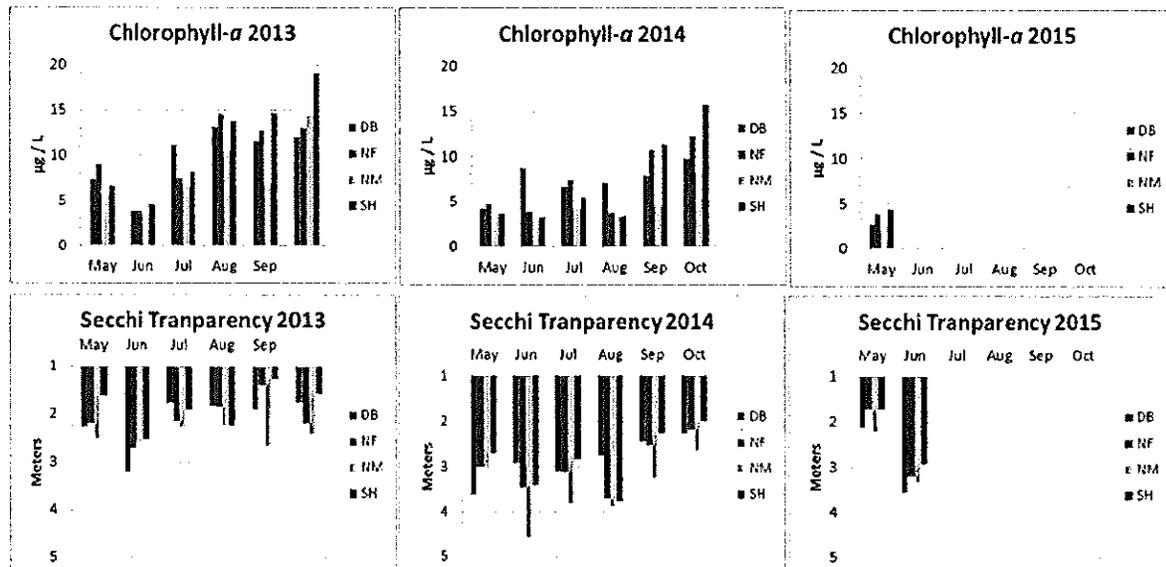
study. Transmitters will be received later this month as will shipment of an additional 55 fish, 50 of which will be “tagged” with the radio transmitters. Fifty-three of the total, including fish that will not be tagged, will be released into Candlewood. Two tagged fish will be released into Haviland Millpond that already contains triploid grass carp, in effort to gain some experience in tracking.

Cyanobacteria Bloom at Squantz

As discussed in last month’s report, the State Beach at Squantz Pond was closed due to a cyanobacteria bloom that occurred on June 4th. As a follow up, I revisited and sampled at the beach on the morning of Thursday, June 11th. Later that day, I analyzed the samples for cyanobacteria cell concentrations in the office of Mr. Tim Simpkins, Director of Health for the Town of New Fairfield. A short report with results of those analyses were provided to the CT DEEP. Our analyses confirmed those of the State and the beach was open that weekend. An email acknowledging our and Mr. Simpkins’ efforts was sent by the CT DEEP to town leaders. That email and my short report are attached to this monthly report.

Water Quality

Water quality monitoring was conducted on June 11th at Squantz Pond and June 17th at Candlewood Lake. Secchi transparency and chlorophyll-a concentrations in May and June of 2015 are compared to those in the last two years below.



Zebra Mussels

We have finished editing and are co-authors with faculty at WCSU of a report on the 2013 and 2014 monitoring of zebra mussels and some of their impacts in the Housatonic River watershed and impoundments. That report will likely have been submitted to the CT DEEP by the time of the board meeting and will be made available on the CLA website.

Larry Marsicano

From: Lee, Charles <Charles.Lee@ct.gov>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 3:27 PM
To: 'Mayor@newmilford.org'; 'm.boughton@danbury-ct.gov';
'ccope@townofshermanct.org'; 'schapman@newfairfield.org';
'blinsley@brookfieldct.gov'; 'Larry Marsicano'
Cc: 'Wood, Brian'; 'GEORGE KNOECKLEIN'
Subject: FW: Squantz Pond
Attachments: Squantz112015.pdf

FYI

Chuck Lee
CTDEEP

From: Lee, Charles
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2015 8:33 AM
To: Cimoichowski, John; Hust, Robert; Lizotte, Tracy; Bellucci, Christopher; 'Larry Marsicano'; tsimpkins@newfairfield.org
Cc: Chute, Stewart
Subject: FW: Squantz Pond

Larry,

Thank you for your report. Your report confirms our data analysis. We intend to lift the beach closure today. It has been very helpful having you and Tim as our local contacts for this algae bloom event. Most lake groups and town officials would need to rely on DEEP and DPH for information and guidance. Rather than us needing to explain conditions and appropriate responses, you and Tim were relaying reliable data DEEP to enhance our information. Thank you for your efforts. Your expertise in limnology and phycology is always appreciated.

Chuck

From: Larry Marsicano [<mailto:claexecdir@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2015 5:46 PM
To: Lee, Charles; tsimpkins@newfairfield.org
Subject: Squantz Pond

Analyses of Squantz Pond phytoplankton. I will proof tonight.

Larry Marsicano
Executive Director
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Observation of Phytoplankton at Squantz Pond on June 11, 2015

Larry Marsicano

June 11, 2015

Introduction

On June 4, 2015 the CT DEEP closed the swim beach at Squantz Pond State Park because of the occurrence of a blue-green algae (or cyanobacteria) bloom. The beach was visited on that date and samples were collected from the sand where cyanobacteria had blown in and dried and from the lake using a 10µm mesh plankton net. Based on a microscopic evaluation, the cells in the sand were a species of the cyanobacteria *Anabaena*. However, very little was observed in the sample collected from the water with the plankton net. The water's appearance also gave no indication that a bloom had recently occurred.

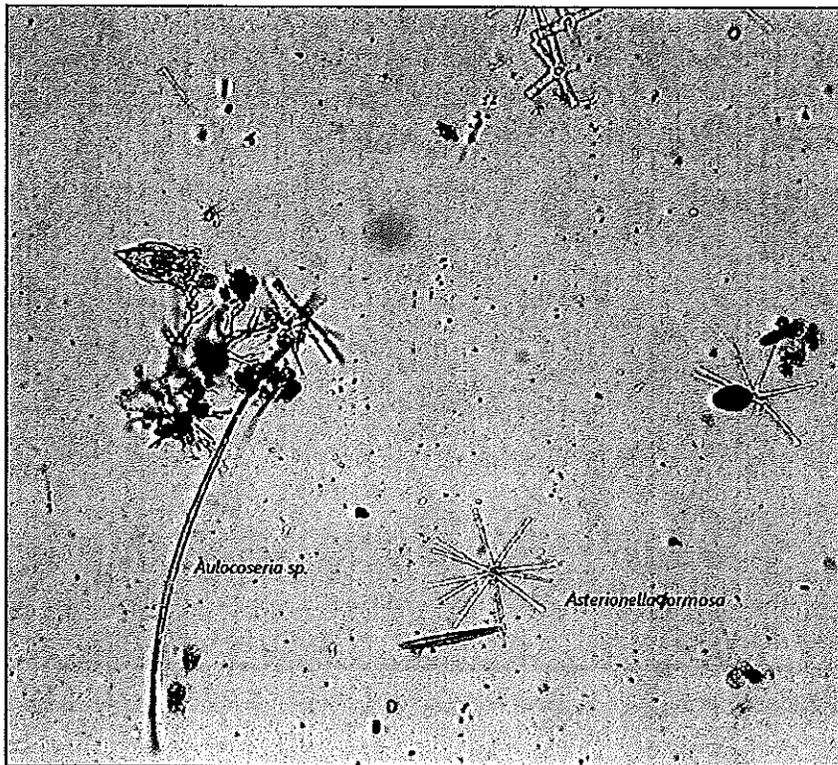
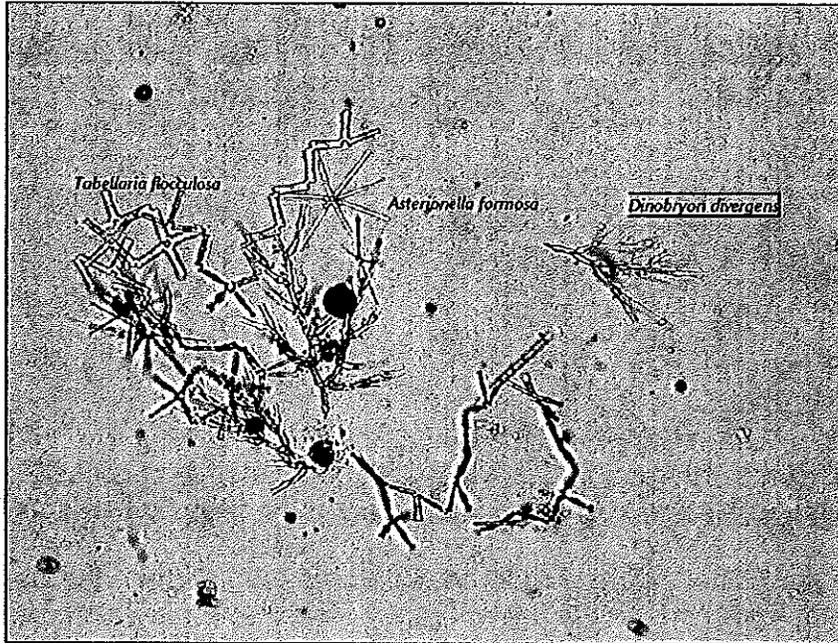
As a follow up, the site was revisited and samples were collected to perform additional phytoplankton analyses, including determination of cell concentrations of cyanobacteria. Photographs of the concentrated flora were also taken and provided below.

Method

A sample was concentrated with a 10 µm net and examined at 100X, 150X, 300X and 400 X total magnifications to identify the dominant algal species. Micrographs were taken using the Motic Software package on a laptop computer that was connected to the microscope. A whole water sample was collected in 1 to 1 ½ feet of water. One mL aliquots were pipetted into 1 mL Sedgewick-Rafter slide and analyzed microscopically at 100X total magnification. Fields and cells of cyanobacteria were enumerated.

Cyanobacteria cell concentrations were calculated by multiplying the total of number of cyanobacteria cells observed during the count by the total number of fields of view on the Sedgewick-Rafter slide at 100X total magnification and then divided by 100 which was the total number of fields counted.

Whole water and net-concentrated samples were preserve with Lugols solution.





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July 8, 2015
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Project CLEAR 2015:

Project CLEAR completed year 13 this year, and it was another successful year with ten different research groups operating simultaneously all around Candlewood.

Besides being the runner, spare boat for transportation etc., I spend the first four days of CLEAR, trying to catch up with each of the ten groups at some point to capture the images I will use to create a slideshow video with on the final afternoon, which is then shown at the final presentation night to all those in attendance.

Additionally, on the Wednesday of Project CLEAR we had the NewsTimes out with us for the morning as we caught up with a number of groups for them to interview and photograph for their article. <http://www.newstimes.com/printpromotion/article/Students-make-Candlewood-Lake-into-a-lab-6347167.php>



Grass Carp Stocking:

The sterile grass carp stocking took place on the final day of Project CLEAR, which made for a very hectic day. The truck with the fish arrived around 8AM in Danbury, and we stocked there, before moving to stock at the Knolls site.

Results

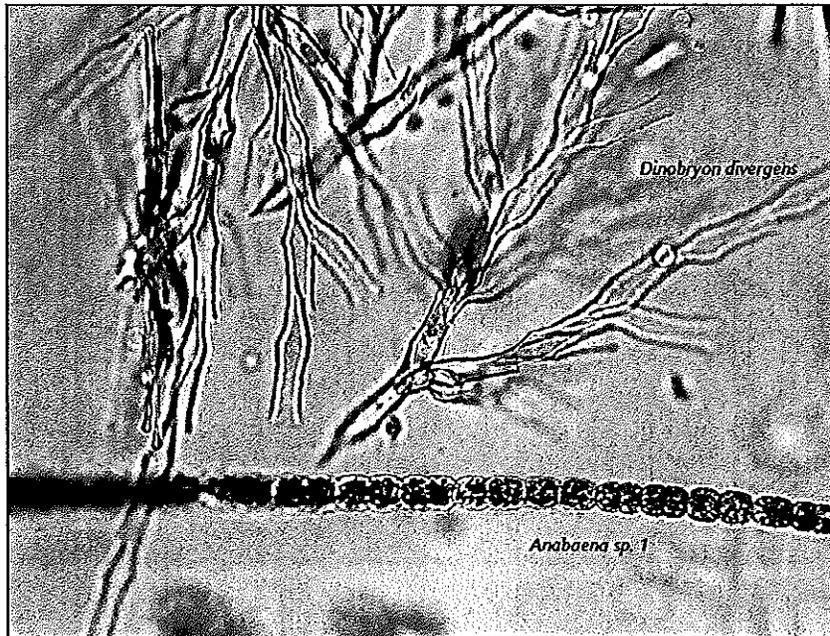
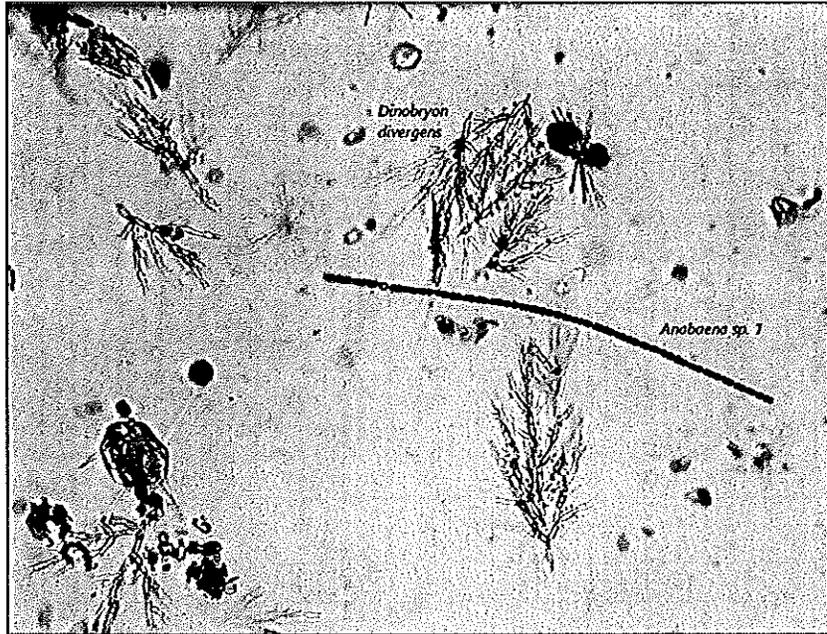
Species	Taxa	Abundance
<i>Asterionella formosa</i>	Diatom	A
<i>Dinobryon divergens</i>	Golden Algae	A
<i>Anabaena sp. 1</i>	Cyanobacteria	C
<i>Tabelaria flocculosa</i>	Diatom	F
<i>Anabaena sp. 2</i>	Cyanobacteria	O
<i>Aphanizomenon flos-aquae</i>	Cyanobacteria	O
<i>Attheya zachariasi</i>	Diatom	O
<i>Cyclotella sp.</i>	Diatom	O
<i>Fragillaria crotonensis</i>	Diatom	O
<i>Rhizosolenia longiseta</i>	Diatom	O
<i>Mallomonas duerrschmitiae</i>	Golden Algae	R
<i>Oocystis sp.</i>	Green Algae	R
<i>Pediastrum sp.</i>	Green Algae	R

A - The species observed is "Abundant" within the given area.
C - The species observed is "Common" within the given area.
F - The species observed is "Frequent" within the given area.
O - The species observed is "Occasional" within the given area.
R - The species observed is "Rare" within the given area.

Cyanobacteria concentrations were calculated from two different counts. The first count yielded 16 cells / mL and the second count yielded 181 cells / mL. An effort was made to enumerate cyanobacteria cells on an inverted compound microscope equipped the 15X ocular lenses and a 20X objective. The improved optics however did not impact the number of cyanobacteria cells observed in the whole water samples.

See below for photographs of the planktonic community.

Photographs



We then moved to the New Fairfield Town Park stocking site, which is where we held our media event as well. At the NFTP site, we held a press conference. A number of people spoke, including Phyllis, Larry and First Selectmen Susan Chapman, Clay Cope and Bill Tinsley.

The event was covered by a number of media outlets - the NewsTimes, Citizen News and the Hartford Courant, as well as New Fairfield TV.

After a number of people had a turn carrying a net of fish to the lake, the Town of New Fairfield provided free hot dogs, hamburgers etc. for those in attendance.



Facebook:

We've had quite a run on Facebook of late. In the last 2+ weeks, we've gained around 600 new followers – that's more than a 50% increase!

It all began with Project CLEAR week, where each day we posted a story about what happened at CLEAR with a number of photos. Then on the day we stocked the grass carp, we also posted a story with a lot of photos of interest. But what really kicked our follower increase into high gear was the fireworks show, or lack thereof. With the dual postponement, we made sure to post as soon as we got word, and with the draw of the event and the number of people who shared our updates with their followers, our "friends count" grew substantially.

With this new found following, we have an opportunity to reach many more people through Facebook and we plan to utilize this and perhaps other social media tools more frequently, as the way people prefer get their information continually shifts and diversifies.



**CANDLEWOOD LAKE
FIREWORKS**
PEOPLE ARE ASKING
WHAT'S THE NEW DATE?

Preparation for 2015 Dragon Boat Races:

We are less than 6 weeks away from the Dragon Boat Races and we're busy with preparations for the event.

We're in the final push to find new teams, and we've been marketing and working to find those teams. We've received a number of new sign ups with many returning teams.

Additionally we're working on planning and preparation for the event day itself as we try to keep this event new and fun for new and returning teams alike.

Press Releases and Articles:

We submitted two news articles to the Citizen News. One was to demonstrate the teambuilding of the Dragon Boat Races and the other on the upcoming sterile grass carp stocking. We also sent out press releases for the grass carp stocking event as well as a safety and boating notice for the fireworks.