



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

## Minutes of Meeting July 8, 2009

### Attending:

P. Callahan	New Fairfield
R. Guendelsberger	-New Milford
H. Mayer	New Milford
S. Murphy	Brookfield
C. Reppenhagen	Sherman
E. Siergiej	Danbury
P. Schaer	Sherman
F. Cioffi	Brookfield
G. Dufel	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford (arrived 7:50PM)

### Absent:

B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Stroh	New Fairfield
H. Berger	Sherman
G. Hofsess	Brookfield

L. Marsicano, CLA Executive Director  
M. Howarth, CLA Public Ed. Director  
F. Frattini, CLA Administrative Coordinator

Recorder F. Frattini & M. Toussaint

Guests: M. Propper, Danbury  
D. Wagner, Brookfield  
C. Ricci, New Milford  
J. Braun, New Fairfield

Chairman, Pat Callahan, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:35 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. Mr. Callahan welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Chairman Callahan advised that he would hold the report until the Secretary arrived.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Callahan advised that he was honored to be with Harold Mayer as he was awarded the Bronze Star for his service during WWII from Congressman Murphy last week in New Milford Town Hall.

He reported that the Project CLEAR presentation was excellent, the staff did a great job, and all who attended were impressed.

The Dragon Boat Race event turned out better than expected, next year it should be bigger and better. Discussion followed and there was much praise for the event, especially for Mr. Howarth and his organizational skills, and that many are looking forward to next year. (Newstimes.com has a video of the race on their site.) Mark Howarth noted that he has a separate race website which will be linked to the

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BY: 

CLA site – it will have photos and video (Candlewoodlakedragonboatrace.shutterfly.com). Discussion continued. All are looking forward to next year.

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

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer – there was no report.

Executive Director's Report: Larry Marsicano noted that his report is attached to these minutes noting that it should be dated July 8 and not June 8. He reviewed a few items covered:

Project CLEAR, and advised that at the presentation someone with connections to National Geographic said that you need to send the video to Nat Geo. They will try to put the video on the CLA website. Shoreline Management Plan (SMP), One Book One Lake program being presented by the libraries and Historical Societies of the five towns. Buffer Garden Kiosk poster outlining the plants in the Buffer Garden has been installed.

Mark Toussaint arrived at 7:50 PM

Watermilfoil Management, Milfoil Weevil Project, Lake Awareness Week, and the legislative bill “An Act Concerning the Recreational Use of Candlewood Lake” which has been signed by the Governor.

Secretary's Report: Mark Toussaint noted that there were no corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes of June 10, 2009, Harold Mayer moved to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Phyllis Shaer and voted with all in Favor. Minutes have been accepted as written.

Public Education Director Report: Mark Howarth's report is attached to these minutes. He did express a thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the Dragon Boat Race a positive experience for all and that all are looking forward to next year. Discussion on how well it worked and suggestions for next year followed. He noted that there are two other established Dragon Boat Races in the State - one in Hartford and one in Norwich – he advised that Norwich found out too late to send a team this year but would like to next year. He spoke about the Project CLEAR documentary that he worked on; he had a great group of students who did a terrific job with the film. He then showed the delegates the “Buffer Recognition Program” sign that will be given to the owners' of the properties that were chosen last year as “Lake Friendly Shoreline”, they will be choosing another group this year.

#### Committee Reports:

Public Safety: In the absence of the Committee chair there was no report. Mr. Callahan noted that the Patrol did a fantastic job at the fireworks this year. Mr. Marsicano advised that he had learned of a program where DEP has partnered with MacDonald's to acknowledge youngsters who wear their PFD – officers will have a card that is given to the child which will entitle them to a free ice cream cone at MacDonald's, members of CLAMP will also participate. Ronald MacDonald and DEP will be at Candlewood on July 23 to promote the program.

Equipment/Facilities: Committee Chair, Ed Siergie, reported that after a few problems everything is operating well now. He advised that there was a problem with the engine on ARK II – the compressor blew and had to be replaced. He plans on speaking to our Treasurer regarding the possibility of replacing that engine now. He reported on his dealing with FirstLight regarding a tree that on his waterfront that needed to be taken down – he reported it to FLPR and within two days someone was out to inspect and it was taken care of within two weeks. Mr. Propper from the audience advised that he had a similar experience last year. Mr. Siergie noted it was a good experience. He reported that he has been removing trash from Sand Island and noted that the amount of use that the island is getting from the public has taken a toll on the Island. Discussion followed and it was suggested that a letter be sent to FirstLight for them to consider Sand Island as one of their sites for restoration.

Public Awareness: Mr. Toussaint advised he had no report

Watershed Management: Harold Mayer, Committee Chair, He advised that Mr. Marsicano's report Recreational Pressures on the lake is an excellent document. The SMP has been submitted to FERC and the CLA will now respond with comments and concerns. A draft letter was reviewed, revised and will be sent to FERC with the report on Recreational Pressures. Discussion followed. It was noted that FERC may or may not have a public hearing. The delegates agreed that the letter and report should be sent to FERC.

Jerry Braun from the Audience addressed the delegates advising that he will be petitioning as an intervener, he agrees with the concerns of the CLA but continues his earlier position on deeded rights. He referred to the Smith Mountain SMP noting that in his response he quotes from that document. He advised that he will demand a public hearing. Discussion followed.

Harold Mayer asked the Chairman if there could be a joint Watershed Management/Executive Committee meeting within the next week – Mr. Callahan advised he would check the schedule.

Mr. Marsicano advised that the report on Recreational Pressures will be on the FERC website once it has been submitted and if possible, since it is such a large document, may be on the CLA website as well.

Old/New Business:

Charlie Reppenhagen asked if there was any word from Danbury on the new building – he was advised nothing to report.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Mr. Reppenhagen moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Mayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:46 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Toussaint, Secretary  
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/t

***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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***Executive Director's Report***  
***July 7, 2009***  
***Larry Marsicano***

*The following report summarizes activities between June 8, 2009 and July 6, 2009.*

**PROJECT CLEAR – CANDLEWOOD LAKE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Approximately 80 to 90 high school students from Brookfield, Bethel, Danbury, New Fairfield, New Milford and Sherman met daily at the Sherman School and the CLA's Field Station on June 24 – 26, 29, and 30. Each day, students worked with educators and environmental professionals conducting field research related to the lake. Nearly all CLA staff participated. Twenty members of the lake community responded to our request for volunteers to transport research groups on the lake for the first four days or help in other capacities. In addition to Frank Cioffi from the CLA board, volunteers included:

Alex Messerle  
Brian Applebee  
Cliff Ricci  
Dave Perlman  
Kristen Ponak  
Ray and Marie Crawford  
Darlene Powell

Bill Leonhardt  
Bridget Stone  
Jack Farley  
Tom Powell  
Melinda Tarsi  
Bill Lohan  
Bob Groeschner

Kevin Kovesci  
Larry Cernoch  
Lou Najamy  
Nick Marsicano, Sr.  
Suzanne Charette  
Allan Brooks

In addition to nine research groups, there was a group of students who worked with Mark Howarth of the CLA to produce a documentary film on Project CLEAR. Advisors to the Documentary Group included the CLA's Harold Mayer and New Fairfield's Ray Juskiwicz.

The documentary was presented at the presentation / reception held at the Sherman School on June 30<sup>th</sup>. Attending and addressing those in attendance were US Congressman Chris Murphy's District Director Rob Michalik and State Senator Michael McLachlin. It is hoped that the documentary will be played on local community access television in the near future. Project CLEAR is a collaboration of the local school districts, Education Connection, Western Connecticut State University and the Candlewood Lake Authority. Other agencies providing help included the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station and the CT DEP.

**SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

FirstLight Power Resources submitted the revised SMP on June 30<sup>th</sup> to FERC asking for Commission review and approval. We are in the process of drafting a letter of

transmittal to FERC to accompany the recreation study we did along with general comments on the draft SMP. Members of Watershed and Executive Committee have been working with me on the letter. I did discuss the process with Kevin Mendik of the National Park Service who was unsure if the SMP would be noticed by FERC and if a comment period would be provided. We've asked US Congressman Chris Murphy's office to investigate for us.

### **ONE BOOK ONE LAKE**

Earlier in the year we assisted a group comprised of the libraries in the municipalities surrounding Candlewood Lake with their One Book One Lake program. The Project CLEAR final presentation was listed in their program as one of the events. Others we helped in the development of the:

Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>            *Planting an Environmentally-Appropriate Lakeside Buffer Garden.* Presented by Robin Zitter at the Sherman Town Park at 4:30 PM

Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>            *Ray Crawford, A Diver's Discoveries Below the Lake.* Presented by Ray Crawford and the New Milford Public Library at 6:30 PM.

All are encouraged to attend and visit [www.onebookonelake.org](http://www.onebookonelake.org) to learn of all programs.

### **BUFFER GARDEN KIOSK POSTER**

Long overdue, Buffer Garden site map – species list – educational poster has been created and is now on display at the Buffer Garden kiosk. Thanks go to Jane Didona and Robin Zitter for work on this. See last page of this report for a 8 ½ X 11 version.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUES**

We have heard back from several of the municipalities regarding the invoice for the umbrella policy we were asked by the CEOs to purchase. Mayors of Danbury and New Milford contacted me to let me know they were not contributing. The Selectmen from Sherman voted in favor of paying their share. First Selectman John Hodge is providing us the balance of the budget appropriation and what we asked for which just about covers the request from New Fairfield. Frances has spoken to Brookfield and there is a chance we may be provided the additional funding as requested.

### **MILFOIL WEEVIL PROJECT**

On Wednesday, June 18<sup>th</sup>, scientists from EnviroScience came out to Candlewood to introduce another 12,000 weevils into Candlewood Lake at a new site and one of the original sites in New Fairfield. Accompanying the CLA, EnviroScience and Dr. Michelle Marko was First Selectman John Hodge. Due to the effectiveness of the drawdown and the late start to the growing season, milfoil was not close enough to the surface to allow scientists to stock the weevils. Stocking has been rescheduled for mid July. On the same day of the visit by EnviroScience, students from WCSU began working with other environmental researchers on the 2009 monitoring of the original sites.

### **LAKES AWARENESS WEEK**

With the help of Representative Mary Ann Carson, a proclamation declaring the week of July 12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> as CT Lakes Awareness Week was signed and delivered to the CLA office. The proclamation can be viewed at the [www.ctlakes.org](http://www.ctlakes.org) website under Hot Topics. A press release was widely distributed. We have already spoken to local news media and are scheduled to bring one of the television stations on the lake to raise awareness.

### **LEGISLATIVE**

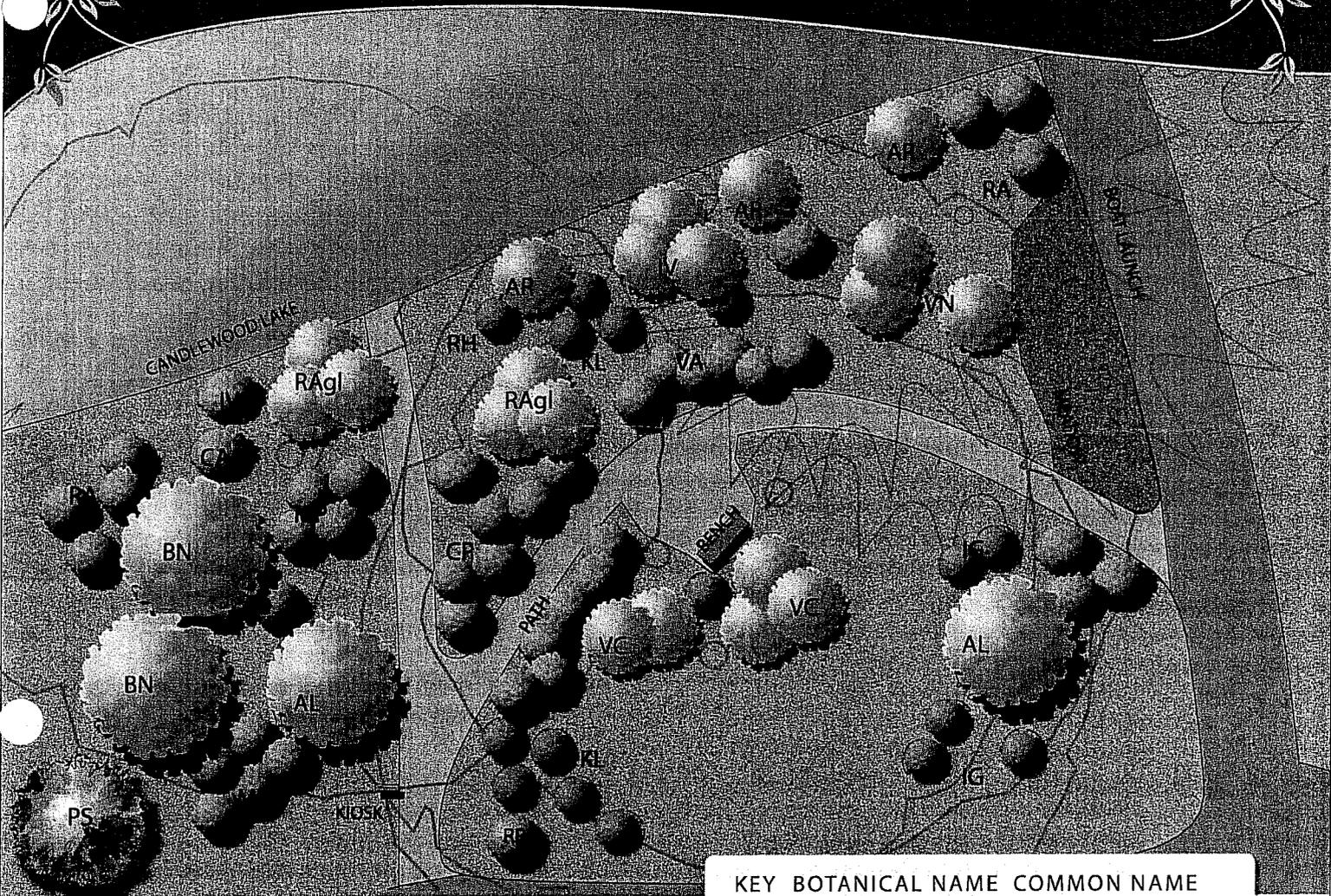
House Bill 5823 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECREATIONAL USE OF CANDLEWOOD LAKE was signed by the Governor. I have briefly discussed with Eleanor Mariani, the Boating Law Administrator for the CTDEP, our recent research and will send along a copy of the report once finalized and printed.

### **OTHER**

I met with the CWI on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

I met with State Senator Michael McLachlin on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY'S BUFFER GARDEN



## WELCOME TO THE CLA'S DEMONSTRATION BUFFER GARDEN

The plants you see form a diverse, healthy community that is low maintenance and self-sustaining. The area was originally a few existing trees and shoreline shrubs and was redesigned and enhanced using a variety of native plants.

Note the different levels of vegetation as you walk on the meandering mulched path – trees, shrubs, perennial and other groundcover layers. All are important components of an ecologically functioning buffer that also provides a place to sit and enjoy the natural world.

Lakeside buffers are important for a variety of reasons including:

- Protection of water quality
- Minimizing shoreline erosion
- Providing fish and wildlife habitat

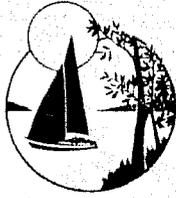
### KEY BOTANICAL NAME COMMON NAME

AR	<i>Alnus rugosa</i>	SPECKLED ALDER
AL	<i>Amelanchier levis</i>	SHADBLOW
BN	<i>Betula nigra</i>	RIVER BIRCH
CA	<i>Cornus amomum</i>	SILKY DOGWOOD
CP	<i>Comptonia perigrina</i>	SWEET FERN
HV	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>	WITCHHAZEL
IG	<i>Ilex glabra</i>	INKBERRY
IV	<i>Ilex verticillata</i>	WINTERBERRY
KL	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>	MOUNTAIN LAUREL
MP	<i>Myrica pensylvanica</i>	BAYBERRY
PS	<i>Pinus strobus</i>	WHITE PINE
RA	<i>Rhus aromatica</i>	FRAGRANT SUMAC
RAGl	<i>Rhus aromatica "grolow"</i>	GROWLOW FRAGRANT SUMAC
RH	<i>Rhododendron aborescens</i>	SWEET AZALEA
RR	<i>Rhododendron roseum</i>	ROSEHELL AZALEA
VA	<i>Vaccinium angustifolium</i>	LOWBUSH BLUEBERRY
VC	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>	HIGHBUSH BLUEBERRY
VN	<i>Viburnum nudum</i>	SMOOTH WITHEROD VIBURNAM



For further information contact the CLA at **860.354.6928** and ask for the **Candlewood Lake Buffer Guidelines**.

Or go to our website at ~ [www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org](http://www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org), click **Education** on the blue tool bar, and then **Buffer Garden Publication**.



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**July 8, 2009**  
**Public Education**  
**Mark Howarth**

## **Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race:**

On June 20<sup>th</sup> we hosted our first Dragon Boat Race fundraising event at Lynn Deming Park. The week prior we hosted coached practice sessions for our teams. 22 Dragons brought one practice boat down on Monday June 15<sup>th</sup>, and trained our volunteer coaches. Our coaches then spent evenings that week with the different teams, helping them to fine-tune their paddling skills and teamwork.

On race day, we had 8 teams of roughly 20 paddlers and 1 drummer each, competing in a series of races. The event opened with a welcome from Mayor Pat Murphy and the singing of our National Anthem by Curtis Thompson. Each team raced two times in the preliminary heats with their best time of the two being used to seed them for the final heat of races.

We were worried about the rainy weather pattern we had been in, but the rains held off until the awards ceremony under the pavilion. Our winning team was the Isle Stokers, from Candlewood Isle. They took home the first place medals. Second place was the Beasts of the East, from Candlewood East Marina. Third was Dragon Breath, from Candlewood Vista.

## **Project CLEAR:**

Project CLEAR has gone through several changes this year, one of which was the addition of the Documentary Group, which I was asked to lead. The objective of the documentary group was not just to film the activities of the other nine groups, but to capture what Project CLEAR is and be able to convey that in an interesting and informative way to the audience on our final night of group presentations, through a short film.

Harold Mayer and I met again the Monday before Project CLEAR so that I could learn more about making a documentary. I had a group of around 8 students for the four days in the field and final "lab day". We traveled to meet up with the other nine groups of students on and off the water and spent time filming, interviewing and gathering data from each of them.

Beginning on the second day we split our team up into an editing team which stayed behind editing the footage from the prior day and a film crew who went to film and interview the other groups.

By the end of the five days, we were able to put together an 18-minute documentary film of the events from the prior four days, which we then showed to the audience at the final night of presentations at the Sherman School. Our students were handed a challenge – to produce a documentary film on the water, in all kinds of weather conditions, on a tight time frame, that needs to be edited while still shooting – and they did a great job. They received many compliments from the audience on presentation night.