



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Special Meeting February 23, 2011

Attending:

H. Berger	Sherman
P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
J. Murphy	Brookfield
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Stroh	New Fairfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
G. Dufel	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford

Absent:

M. Calandrino	Danbury
B. Lohan	Brookfield
F. Cioffi	Brookfield
H. Mayer	New Milford
R. Guendelsberger -	New Milford

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

Doug Vane, CLAMP

Recorder R. Stroh

Guests: Ted Backer, Attorney

Chairman, Howie Berger, called the special meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:30 P.M. at Mallory Town Hall, Sherman, CT. Mr. Berger welcomed the guests and welcomed the new delegate from the Town of Sherman, Ed Hayes. He is no stranger to the CLA as a former Lake Patrolman and presently as a Selectman.

Mr. Berger noted that after the approval of the minutes he would take the Public Safety issues first.

Secretary, Rich Stroh noted that there were no corrections to the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting. Mark Toussaint moved to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2010 meeting as written, seconded by Phyllis Schaer and voted with all in favor. Minutes have been accepted as written.

1. Public Safety: Mr. Berger advised that Attorney Backer would address the DEP/CLA Agreement. Atty. Backer first thanked everyone noting that it has been a pleasure to represent the CLA. Something really significant has been accomplished for protecting Public Safety on Candlewood Lake. He named a few that he wanted to thank especially John Hodge and Jerry Murphy. He noted that the DEP was exceptionally responsive in moving forward the MOA. He

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BY: MMC

advised that this Agreement is for only one year, Melinda Decker the Atty. for DEP had advised him that the DEP needed this year to see how it works and after this year future agreements will be for longer periods i.e. 3 years or more. Atty. Backer reviewed some items of the Agreement. He advised that the DEP had advised him that they would not have a problem with a retired POST certified officer carrying a firearm. He noted that POST certified officers employed by the Towns and the CLA could enforce BUI and MSD inspections. POST certified LPOs employed with police departments other than those from CLA member municipalities would have to be appointed Special Constable in order to enforce BUI and MSD. The General Orders that the CLAMP will operate under will be provided to the CLA by April 1. For any changes in certification procedures the DEP will give the CLA sufficient notice to comply. This is a very good agreement. Senator McLauchlan was very instrumental in getting the dialogue with DEP started, First Selectman Davidson of Brookfield helped as well. John Hodge asked which town will appoint the Special Constables – that has not yet been determined. Atty. Backer noted that he had a Resolution that needed to be signed by the quorum of delegates present that would permit the Chairman, Howie Berger to sign the Agreement. Phyllis Schaer made a motion in favor of adopting the Resolution, seconded by Jerry Murphy, Discussion followed and the motion was voted with all in favor. The Resolution was passed and all delegates present signed it. While this was happening, Howie Berger presented Atty. Backer a few tokens, with thanks, from the CLA – magnets, a Project CLEAR tee shirt and a Candlewood Lake “captain” hat. Mr. Berger expressed appreciation to Chief Joe Yedowitz of the Patrol for his level of loyalty and commitment to community, to the LPOs, and to get the patrol back out on the water last season. He thanked Atty. Backer for all that he has done for the CLA. Mr. Berger signed the Agreement. Atty. Backer thanked Mr. Berger and Mr. Marsicano for all their help with many decisions that were not publicly popular but needed to be made.

Rich Stroh, Public Safety Committee Chairman, introduced Lake Patrol Officer Doug Vane as the committee recommendation for the position of Chief of Marine Enforcement of the Lake Patrol. Ed Hayes moved to approve the appointment of Doug Vane as Chief of Marine Enforcement of the Lake Patrol, seconded by Ed Siergiej and voted with all in favor. Mr. Hayes noted that as a past Lake Patrol Officer having worked with Mr. Vane, he is so pleased to welcome him as the new Chief.

Atty. Backer and Officer Vane left at 8P.M.

2. Invasive Species Sub-Committee: Phyllis Schaer, sub-committee chair reported that they had met in December, January and February and have one more meeting scheduled for March 2. She then passed a draft of the recommendations and briefly outlined them. She noted that the zebra mussel has not been found in Candlewood but has in Lakes Zoar and Lillinonah and the Housatonic River. Recommendations are to focus on early detection / monitoring, education and outreach, prevention and containment, legislation, and funding. Education and outreach efforts will be important, especially regarding boats coming from those infected waters to Candlewood. Mrs. Schaer discussed initiatives like decontamination before coming to our lake and monitoring at the boat ramps. There has been a very good working relationship with the DEP regarding prevention at the State ramps, signage, the invasive investigator program at the ramps and training for volunteers to monitor local ramps. Legislation to prevent the transport the mussel is being looked into. Mr. Marsicano advised that there is a DEP regulation regarding invasive aquatic plants and it may be possible to amend it to add invasive invertebrates if DEP can update the regulation there may be no need for legislation. Mrs. Schaer noted that Mark Howarth has been working on signs for the ramps – state and local for infested and non-infested waters – copies were shown to the delegates. He also shared a packet from the Connecticut B.A.S.S.

Federation Nation on "Procedures for Reducing the Spread of Zebra Mussels" which will be required before a CBFN club tournament permit will be issued. The DEP is also developing a self-certification process for all tournaments. Mrs. Schaer noted this is a very collaborative approach that has been done in other areas. It was noted that the calcium levels in Candlewood might not be considered ideal for reproduction of the zebra mussel. The early detection program will focus in the New Milford arm as it has the higher calcium levels and receives the waters from the Housatonic River. Mr. Dufel asked if the calcium from road salts could increase the levels in the lake? Response was not known at this time what kinds of calcium will affect the lake. This is a dynamic task force, it consists of a diverse number of people from experts to local residents. One member, Ray Crawford, a New Milford lakefront resident and master diver, has offered to dive with his highly experienced divers with the DEP consulting group providing the biological expertise in search of for zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake. It was noted that reference to the zebra mussels may ought to be in the SMP – Mr. Marsicano advised that FERC was advised of the potential threat back when the Nuisance Plant Monitoring Plan was being approved by FERC, but since there were no zebra mussel threat at the time the licensee was not required to address the issue in the NPMP - FERC advised to make them aware if a threat does develop. Mrs. Schaer asked the delegates to review the draft recommendations and send comments to her, Mr. Marsicano or Mr. Howarth.

Mrs. Schaer reported on a member of the Task Force who left to go out on his own, and has written articles in the Citizen News and Brookfield Patch have been counter productive to all the work the Task Force has done. It is both disheartening and frustrating. There have also been emails sent to lake community leaders that have not portrayed the Task Force favorably, and recently a Facebook site created that notes "there is no entity that crosses Town borders working for the betterment of the Lake". That is exactly what the CLA does, it represents the five towns and it does work for the best interest of the lake. Discussion continued. Timing of the pump-up was discussed. It may be better to pump up when the water is colder than temperatures necessary for zebra mussel spawning. Decontamination sites and off site boat wash stations all may be considered. A business model from the Power Company regarding the pump up and generating would be helpful. Mrs. Schaer noted this is a good first step to help protect the lake from invasives. She will have an update at the March CLA meeting.

3. Reports:

Vice-Chairman: nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Phyllis Schaer asked for a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended December 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011 as presented, moved by Ed Siergiej and seconded by Rich Stroh. With no discussion the motion was voted with all in favor and Treasurer's Report for months ended December 31, 2010 and January 31, 2011 have been accepted and filed for audit.

Chairman: Mr. Berger noted that possibly this year the seminar series will be held lakeside with the final one at Deer Island. The CLA needs to get its message out to more residents and lake users.

Public Education Director: Mark Howarth noted his report is attached.

Executive Director: Larry Marsicano noted his report is attached. He did advise that in mid-January there was a pipe break in the building and some minor water damage occurred in the

office. Earlier this week he had lunch with First Selectman John Hodge, and Mayor Pat Murphy to meet the new interim replacements for Mr. Gates and Mr. Ginnetti of FirstLight Power.

Public Safety – Mr. Stroh asked if this might be the time to bring up the Boat Sticker Program again – Mrs. Schaer noted that a statewide program with money going into a fund for invasive species has been discussed.

It was noted that with the new DEP agreement the make up of the Lake Patrol will change – the CLA is planning a publicity campaign to advise the public of this as the POST certified officers will now have the power of arrest on the lake. Discussion followed on how these changes will affect the lake and patrol. Ed Hayes noted that the PWC's are a very valuable and positive tool in the public and lake patrol interaction. Mr. Hodge noted the patrol will go out and enforce the law this year.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Mr. Hodge moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Hayes. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,



Rich Stroh, Secretary
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/s

*These minutes are not considered official until they
have been approved at the next regularly scheduled
meeting of the Candlewoodandlewood Lake Authority.*



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Executive Director's Report February 7, 2011 Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities January 7, 2011 to February 7, 2011

INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE / ZEBRA MUSSELS

Much of the focus of the CLA for the last month has been on the zebra mussel issue over the last month. Another Invasive Species Subcommittee was held on January 19th. Phyllis, Mark and I also met with the directors and staff from CTDEP's Inland Fisheries and Boating Divisions on February 3rd. We are working closely with WCSU to develop an early detection & monitoring program. Both Phyllis, Chair of the Subcommittee and Mark will be reporting on additional efforts.

PUBLIC SAFETY, LAKE PATROL, AND MOA

Progress on a new MOA continues to be made. A revised draft was received and reviewed by Howie, Ted Backer and myself with several conference calls occurring to discuss the issue. Most of the CLA's recommendations made by Ted to the CTDEP were accepted including provisions to allow our POST certified Lake Patrol Officers to enforce BUI and MSD laws.

Public Safety has been working to find a new Chief of Patrol. Our current Chief Joe Yedowitz, veteran LPO Mike Rodgers and board members Rich Stroh and Jerry Murphy, along with our supervising Sergeant, Ray Ramos, met and interviewed two candidates on Monday night, January 31st. Doug Vane was recommended by the interviewing team to the Executive Committee who will meet with Doug prior to the CLA's board meeting. Doug has been a LPO with the CLA since 2000 and is a Sergeant with the Brookfield Police Department.

DRAWDOWN / DASHBOARD

We have continued to update the CLA Drawdown Dashboard. The Dashboard was referenced in Bob Miller's Saturday, February 5th article, *Snow and Weeds in Candlewood Lake*.

"...According to Candlewood Lake Authority's on-line daily graph at www.candlewoodlakeauthority.org, the lake has been consistently at 420 feet above sea level or lower for most of January. The authority hopes FirstLight will keep it that low through February..."

MILFOIL/DRAWDOWN RESEARCH

We were requested by Dr. George Knoecklein who is studying the possible impact of drawdowns on Candlewood, temperature and dissolved oxygen profile data. We have provided that data from the four sites on Candlewood Lake and one site on Squantz Pond from 1985 thru 2010 with profiles, with profiles recorded monthly (May – October) for each site and for each year. Dr. Knoecklein has requested the nutrient and Secchi disk data over a similar time frame, which we will begin to assemble later this month.

BUDGET

On Friday, February 4th, Mark Toussaint and I met with Mayor Murphy of New Milford to review our budget proposal. Our flat budget request was appreciated. The Mayor provided some ideas on: how to grow our Dragon Boat event; collecting lake community contact info; and seminars on one of the islands.

NEW SHERMAN DELEGATE

I am happy to announce that a new Delegate from Sherman has been appointed. Ed Hayes is a former CLA Lake Patrol Officer and is serving his second term as a Selectman in the Town of Sherman. Howie and I had an opportunity to meet with Ed prior to his appointment to discuss lake related issues and our expectations in his role with the CLA. We thank Ed for his willingness to serve on the CLA and look forward to working with him.

NEW MILFORD OFFICE

In the early morning hours of January 15th, I received a call from one of the other tenants of 30 Bridge Street to inform me of a broken pipe and potential water damage in the building, including in our office. I was also notified by one of the building owners. A considerable amount of water did enter our suite which forced us to work from home for several days. After assessing the damage it was determined that no damage was done to office equipment. Jack and John Farley, who own the building, have been very responsive and expeditious in getting in crews to clean up the damage caused by the broken pipe. Insulation and ceiling tiles were replaced; other repairs are being scheduled for later in the month.

OTHER

On January 11th we were informed that FirstLight's Bob Gates was leaving the company. Bob has served as Station Manager for the last 18 years. We wish him well in his future endeavors.



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Executive Director's Report January 6, 2011 Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities December 2, 2010 to January 7, 2011

LAKE PATROL AND MOA

Considerable time, resources and energies went into resolving and developing a workable MOA this past month. These include several meetings (December 14th and 17th) coordinated by Jerry Murphy with representatives from the Lake Lillinonah Marine Patrol, Brookfield First Selectman Bill Davidson, CLA Public Safety Chairman Rich Stroh, Attorney Backer and I attending. Attorney Ted Backer and I had a lengthy discussion with risk management experts from our insurance carrier, CIRMA on December 10th who made a number of suggestions on how to improve the draft MOA. Howie Berger and I have met with Attorney Backer several more times. It was the primary subject of the Executive Committee meeting on January 5th with CLAMP Chief of Patrol Joe Yedowitz also attending.

Following the original letter discussed in my December report, there was another letter sent to the CEOs of the member municipalities to solicit any additional comments. Recommendations / revisions for the draft MOA should be sent by Attorney Backer to the CT DEP by early in the week of January 10th.

DRAWDOWN / DASHBOARD

We have been tracking lake level and environmental variables that could constrain FirstLight's ability to reach their target elevation for the deep drawdown (419 feet) by the target date of January 7th. As of early January 7th, the lake is at an elevation of 420.1 feet above sea level (CL&P datum). CLA Chairman Howie Berger successfully created the CLA's Drawdown Dashboard which tracks daily lake level, daily average air temperature, daily rainfall and snowfall, and Housatonic River discharge rate.

MILFOIL RESEARCH

I attended the presentation by Dr. Lonergan's students working with Eurasian watermilfoil in the lab. Some of the highlights include the following:

Several events can protect the roots by keeping the temperature near 0°C (32°F):

- freezing roots in standing water
- sediment with either an ice or snow cover

What is a factor:

- Temp reached (must be colder than 0°C), length of time at the colder temp (as little as 10 hr at -5°C will kill), slower thaw rate will kill, presence of ice or snow insulation

What is not a factor:

- Moisture level in sediment, rate of freezing

INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE / ZEBRA MUSSELS

The first of four meetings of the CLA's Invasive Species Subcommittee working the zebra mussel issue occurred on December 15th. Considerable work continues to go into gathering information and developing plans to address this potential threat to Candlewood Lake. Members of the current Subcommittee represent a wide range of stakeholders including those from Candlewood's Lake community, the CT DEP, the Housatonic Valley Association, the CT Bass Federation, commercial marinas, municipal Park and Recreation Commissions, Western Connecticut State University, and others. Action items resulting from that meeting are being completed, including creating a SharePoint site for Subcommittee members where information can be disseminated, discussion threads can be created, and messages can be posted.

EDUCATION / COMMUNICATIONS

Thanks in large part to Mark we issued another edition of the CLA Electronic News in late December, which highlighted the drawdown and the CLA's Drawdown Dashboard. Articles appeared in the News-Times, the Citizens News, and the Brookfield Patch regarding the drawdown and dashboard and we have been contacted for a story by WPNR radio. In the last several weeks we have had an unusually high number of requests to be added to our electronic news distribution list.

BUDGET

Finance and other committees successfully put together a budget that was submitted electronically to Danbury on December 16th and mailed to all municipalities on December 20th. Special thanks are extended to Phyllis and Frances for their efforts.



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January 12, 2011
Public Education
Mark Howarth

December CandlewoodNews:

We issued our 6th CandlewoodNews electronic newsletter for 2010, at the end of December. In this issue we announced the launching of our "drawdown dashboard" which is now available on our website. This feature charts not only the drawdown depth going back to November of this season, but also other factors that can impact the effectiveness of a drawdown, such as rainfall, snowfall, air temperature as well as the average daily discharge rate at the Gaylordsville monitoring station. Also in this issue was the announcement by FirstLight of the start of the free Bald Eagle view season at the Shepaug Bald Eagle Observation Area. The creation of the CLA's Invasive Species Subcommittee as well as an article on Zebra Mussels were also part of the newsletter. Other topics included progress at Pine Island, the 440' line and the study of the impact of winter drawdowns on Candlewood Lake.

Zebra Mussels:

Invasive Species Subcommittee Meeting #1:

On Wednesday, December 15th, the Invasive Species Subcommittee of the Watershed Committee met at New Milford Town Hall to address the Zebra Mussel threat and determine a plan of action to try and prevent their introduction into Candlewood Lake. With a 4-meeting zebra mussel only immediate focus, Phyllis Schaer is heading up this (currently) 15-member subcommittee. Members of the subcommittee who have joined for the zebra mussel issue are CLA staff and many volunteers with wide-ranging backgrounds and areas of expertise.

A series of action points and other tasks are being worked on by various members of the subcommittee in preparation for the second meeting of the group. At the conclusion of the 4-meetings on zebra mussels (in March) the committee is striving to have a plan of action to combat this invasive species threat for the coming season, including monitoring & research programs as well as education & outreach materials and programs. The second meeting is scheduled for January 19th.



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**February 9, 2011
Public Education
Mark Howarth**

Zebra Mussels:

Invasive Species Subcommittee:

On Wednesday, January 19th, the Invasive Species Subcommittee of the Watershed Committee met for the second of four planned meetings, at New Milford Town Hall. The immediate focus of this group is on the prevention of spread of zebra mussels. The subcommittee has been divided into several working groups, which include Monitoring & Research, Education & Outreach and Physical Prevention & Containment.

We have added two new members to our subcommittee: Bernie Lintzner (Lake Zoar Authority) and Eleanor Mariani (Director DEP Boating).

I have been leading the Education & Outreach group and we are in the process of creating zebra mussel signage for the boat ramps on Candlewood Lake. We are planning signage that will coordinate with new DEP signage and we will have signs at State and town ramps, and also plan to place signage at other access points such as community ramps and marinas.

Additionally, we are working in informational zebra mussel pamphlets, which we expect to have available for distribution for users of the Lake and throughout the Candlewood Lake community.

Further updates to our website's zebra mussel content are planned and the Education & Outreach group also discussed other potential zebra mussel educational initiatives utilizing other media.

DEP Meeting:

On Thursday February 3rd, Larry Marsicano, Phyllis Schaer and I went to Hartford to meet with Eleanor Mariani, Peter Aarrestad, Bill Foreman and

Gwendolyn Flynn from the DEP to discuss zebra mussel control and continue the work of the invasive species subcommittee. We had a productive meeting and topics of discussion included signage and literature for educational purposes, fishing tournaments, boat wash station options, funding and research and monitoring efforts.

2011 Dragon Boat Race:

Planning for the 2011 Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race is under way. Last month, I met with New Milford Parks & Recreation to discuss this coming year's event and address any changes that we or New Milford Parks & Rec wishes to make for 2011. On January 11th, I attended the monthly meeting of the New Milford Parks & Recreation department at which time the commission approved our 2011 event at Lynn Deming Park.