

CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Meeting May 11, 2011

Attending:

H. Berger	Sherman
P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
M Toussaint	New Milford
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
R. Stroh	New Fairfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
F. Cioffi	Brookfield (7:45PM)
W. Lohan	Brookfield
G. Dufel	Danbury

Absent:

M. Calandrino	Danbury
E. Siergiej	Danbury
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
R. Guendelsberger	New Milford
H. Mayer	New Milford

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

Recorder: R. Stroh

Guests: D. Gilbert – CT Bass Federation Nation
M. Propper, Danbury

Howie Berger, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:36 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. He welcomed the guests.

Secretary's Report: Rich Stroh, Secretary, noted that there were no corrections to the minutes of the April 13, 2011 regular meeting. Mark Toussaint moved to accept the minutes of the April 13, 2011 meeting as written, seconded by John Hodge and voted with all in favor, minutes have been accepted. He then noted that there was an addition to the minutes of the May 4, 2011 Special Meeting – Frances Frattini read the addition to page four at the end of the first paragraph after “.....into Candlewood Lake.” Add: “It potentially poses the greatest risk to Candlewood Lake by the continual introduction of an upstream source of zebra mussels and their juvenile veliger larvae into Candlewood Lake.” John Hodge moved to accept the minutes of the May 4, 2011 special meeting as amended, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. Minutes have been accepted.

Chairman's Report – Howie Berger, advised he would report later in the meeting.

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DANBURY TOWN CLERK

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BY: *MMC*

Vice-Chairman's Report: Mark Toussaint, Vice Chairman noted he would report under Public Awareness.

Treasurer's Report: Phyllis Schaer, Treasurer, noted that the reports for Income and Expenses for the month ended April 30, 2011 had been prepared and asked if there were any questions. With none, Ed Hayes moved to accept the report of Income and Expenses for the month ended April 30, 2011 as presented, seconded by Rich Stroh and voted with all in favor. Treasurer's Report has been accepted and filed for audit.

Mr. Berger asked which Towns had passed their 2011-2012 budgets – New Milford and New Fairfield have passed, Sherman and Brookfield will be voting on Saturday – May 14th.

Executive Director: Larry Marsicano noted that his report is attached to these minutes. He reported that Envirosience has proposed to restock weevils at one site this year, conduct surveys before and after stocking and come back in 2012 to inspect – if the milfoil is not managed after the third stocking then the CLA would move on. He is waiting to hear from FirstLight and/or New Fairfield on interest to fund. He reported that on May 25th Project CLEAR Middle School students will be at Squantz Pond for their field activities and their day will end with a cookout. He asked Delegates to volunteer. He also reported that he has been looking into two land use issues one at Shoreview Estates in Danbury and other on Candlewood Isle - FirstLight has been contacted about both issues.

Public Education Director: Mark Howarth noted he has been actively working on getting sponsors for the CleanUp and Dragon Boat Races. Response has been positive.

Equipment/Facilities: In the absence of the Committee Chairman, there was no report.

Public Safety: Committee Chair, Rich Stroh reported that Ed Hayes was looking into the Lake Patrol Officers being appointed Special Town Constables – he brought it up to the Sherman Board of Selectman and advised that they were in favor but were concerned about liability to the Town and the First Selectman will follow-up with the CLA attorney on a few questions.

Mr. Stroh reported that Chief Vane had met with the Brookfield and New Milford Police Departments and they are willing to work with CLAMP on BUI's. Mr. Stroh noted the need to purchase some new uniforms and that his Uniform line has been overspent.

Phyllis Schaer moved to allow all committees to overspend their line items as long as they do not exceed the committee's total budget amount. Seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor and Gary Dufel, against. Motion carried. This motion will allow Public Safety to purchase the needed uniforms. Mr. Stroh reminded the delegates that they are welcome to ride along with the CLAMP officers, just let the Chief know. Mr. Hayes noted that Sherman would really like to have the patrol boat in the Memorial Day Parade.

Mr. Propper asked about patrols for Memorial Day Weekend. He was advised that patrols are scheduled for the whole weekend.

Chief Vane reported that DEP may be laying off 17 officers and not have any Seasonal CO's, this means that there may be only one DEP officer on the lake this season. He also reported that only three new officers have taken the training, which is much less than the ten they had hoped to hire. Discussion followed. Noting that the starting salary of a new patrol officer is very low for POST certified officers.

Watershed Management: In the absence of the Committee Chairman, there was no report.

Public Awareness: Mark Toussaint, Committee Chairman, reported that the committee has been focusing on Zebra Mussels and the CleanUp. He advised that the Annual appeal should go out before the boating season and they would be working on that shortly. He then reviewed the proposal of George Linkletter for a PR campaign to educate the public to the dangers of the Zebra Mussel. Discussion followed, noting that is a fairly comprehensive proposal including stories, press releases and public service announcements at the cost of six thousand (\$6000.00) dollars. Mr. Hodge asked where the money would come from – discussion followed and it was decided that it would come from the Public Education line in the Reserve accounts. With no further discussion, John Hodge moved not to exceed six thousand (\$6000.00) dollars for the Public Education Awareness program on Zebra Mussels with the funds to come from the Public Education Reserve fund – seconded by Phyllis Schaer. The motion was voted with all in favor. For political reasons, Ed Hayes recused himself from the vote.

Mrs. Schaer reported that she and Harold Mayer received the Housatonic Hero award from HVA at the anniversary event held yesterday at the River.

Old/New Business: Mr. Berger noted after the special meeting the motion was forwarded to FirstLight and there was a positive response – in a press release today they advised that they have not pumped since the river temperature reached 50 degrees.....FirstLight has committed to developing additional monitoring strategies to detect the presence of Zebra Mussel in the Upper Housatonic River.....FirstLight will continue to provide updates as the Zebra Mussel monitoring plan is developed.FirstLight remains committed to a cooperative and meaningful working relationship with local agencies to address matters affecting Candlewood Lake.”

Mr. Berger noted that he would be meeting with John Shue of FirstLight tomorrow – he took over Jim Ginnetti’s position. He noted that he will be advising FL that this is a much bigger problem than just Candlewood and looks forward to partnering with FL in seeking a solution. This is a regional issue – Western CT. Mr. Berger asked Mr. Hodge as Chair of HVCEO if they would be willing to write a letter that this is a regional issue, HVA, Lillinonah and Zoar are in favor of this. Congressman Murphy and Senator Blumenthal are in support of the work that the Task Force has done. Mr. Hodge noted that HVCEO will be asking DEP to monitor or close the ramps. Mrs. Schaer advised that the collaborations in the Western States now need to be set up here.

There will be an Invasive Investigator Program in New Fairfield on June 18th. Mr. Marsicano will look into having it filmed.

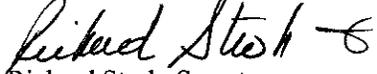
Mr. Murphy advised that he has spoken to State Rep. Mike McLachlin to keep him up to date on what has been happening.

Mr. Propper asked on the status of Pine Island. Mr. Hodge advised that the Town and FirstLight are moving forward to clean up the area, some of the owners have engaged attorneys and it is at least a year or two away from any resolution.

Frank Cioffi reported that he has some out-of-pocket expenses for the Clean Up planning in the amount of \$55.63. John Hodge moved to reimburse Frank Cioffi \$55.63 for his out-of-pocket expenses, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. Mr. Cioffi will be reimbursed.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, John Hodge moved to adjourn, seconded by Rich Stroh. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard 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 Candlewood Lake Authority.



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Executive Director's Report May 9, 2011 Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities April 7, 2011 to May 9, 2011.

INVASIVE SPECIES SUBCOMMITTEE / ZEBRA MUSSELS

Considerable efforts by delegates and staff continue to be directed at the zebra mussel issue and on the efforts of the Zebra Mussel Task Force. We participated in a meeting with CT Attorney General Staff in Hartford scheduled by First Selectman John Hodge on April 12th to see what could be done legally to stop the flow of veligers from MA to CT. We coordinated two Invasive Investigator training sessions: one on Saturday, April 9th; the other on Saturday, April 30th. We are coordinating another for Saturday, June 18th to be held at the Community Room in New Fairfield. We facilitated another meeting of the Zebra Mussel Task Force, are currently transcribing the minutes and will be revising the draft report as discussed at the meeting. We met with a media / public relations consultant to discuss the development of a proposal for a media campaign regarding the zebra mussels. We coordinated a meeting and met with Jesse Young from US Congressman Chris Murphy's office to discuss invasive species issues. We've been researching and developing rapid response plans to put into place in conjunction with FirstLight in the event zebra mussels are ever found in Candlewood Lake. We facilitated and participated in a meeting on Tuesday, May 3rd at WCSU where those involved with early detection / monitoring of zebra mussels, both adults and veligers, met to coordinate efforts. Parties involved, in addition to the CLA, included CT DEP, FirstLight Power, WCSU, and Biodiversity. The CLA and FirstLight Power have been involved in an ongoing dialog on how to best address the zebra mussel issue in light of Rocky River operations.

MILFOIL/DRAWDOWN RESEARCH

We have had numerous correspondences with parties involved in the milfoil weevil research, including EnviroScience, FirstLight Power, New Fairfield First Selectmen John Hodge, the CT Agricultural Experiment Station, and Drs. Michelle Marko and Mitch Wagener of Concordia College, MN and WCSU, CT, respectively. Earlier in the year a report from EnviroScience was received and shared with FirstLight and New Fairfield and our other partners. Later, EnviroScience provided a proposal for additional stocking. Some interest in pursuing this was expressed provided that a more detailed study plan was developed. Following discussions with research experts and EnviroScience, a revised proposal was developed, sent to the CLA, who passed it along to FirstLight and First Selectman John Hodge. The proposal included surveys by EnviroScience before and after stocking in 2011; stocking an additional 8,000 weevils at site G (Patrol Cove); and resurveying in 2012. If the site does not appear to be controlled by 2012, EnviroScience

would then restock the same number of weevils free of charge. We are waiting to hear back to see what interests and financial resources there are to do additional stocking.

Students at WCSU are planning to continue monitoring the sites that were monitored last summer. We are also collaborating with WCSU in efforts to have students maintain a population of weevils in tanks at WCSU in greenhouses. In the interests of providing the best training to students working on the monitoring sites on Candlewood and successfully maintaining the populations at WCSU, we are exploring the possibility of working with the CAES in bringing Dr. Marko out to Candlewood in June of 2011.

EDUCATION / PROJECT CLEAR

We helped facilitate and taught at the second classroom day of Project CLEAR at WCSU which occurred on Friday, April 29th. Students continued to get training for the research they will do during the week of June 27th.

We are assisting Education Connection with their middle school component of Project CLEAR which culminates on Wednesday, May 25th at Squantz Pond State Park. On that day we are helping out by coordinating and manning the grill for the BBQ provided to the ~125 middle school students who participated this year. Delegates are strongly encouraged to volunteer for this event! Please contact the office to learn how you can help.

JOHN MARSICANO MEMORIAL CANDLEWOOD LAKE CLEAN UP

We are in the midst of coordinating the 12th Annual John Marsicano Memorial Candlewood Lake Clean Up. Volunteers, particularly those with vessels they are willing to use, are needed and should contact the office or register online at the CLA website.

OTHER

On April 26th Kathy Hull of the New Fairfield Senior Center and I attended the breakfast of the Woman's Club of Danbury/New Fairfield where they presented us a check for \$750 dollars to be used by the NF Senior Environmental Corps in educational efforts. Following the awards presentation and as part of their annual meeting, I provided a 20 minute presentation – *Candlewood Lake: Cultural History, Water Quality History, and Current Events*.

We've been asked to participate in the Danbury Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Danbury program. Our contribution will occur on July 28th at Down the Hatch, followed by a tour on the lake for program participants.

On April 20th, I was elected to my first term as President by the Board of the CT Federation of Lakes. In the past I had served as Treasurer and most recently over the last several years, served as Vice President, as well as being one of the founding members.

On Wednesday, May 18th at 6:30 PM at the New Milford Library, there will be a presentation entitled *Wonders of Candlewood Lake* provided by New Milford waterfront resident Ray Crawford. Mr. Crawford is a master diver who dives 100's of time each year in Candlewood and tirelessly volunteers for the CLA. His contributions to our efforts have included fundraising, Dragon Boat events, milfoil research, and most recently has been an active member of the Zebra Mussel Task Force.



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**May 11, 2011
Public Education
Mark Howarth**

Zebra Mussels:

Zebra Mussel Task Force:

The Zebra Mussel Task Force met on April 27th and we continued our work on preventing zebra mussels from entering Candlewood Lake.

I plan to continue modifying and then print up a brochure which details how to decontaminate various types of boats.

We distributed the zebra mussel tri-fold brochures in their plastic desktop holders to various locations. I went to a number of area establishments, including parks & rec, marinas, tackle shops etc. to drop off the information and speak with the staff.

We sent out a press release on May 9th to all area media outlets (including those in the Zoar and Lillinonah area) to make them aware of what is being done for the zebra mussel effort, with a focus on the dive team Ray Crawford is heading up which will conduct searches for adult zebra mussels.

Sponsors:

We received the sponsor tri-folds that I created and had printed, which describe our Clean Up and Dragon Boat Races along with the sponsor opportunities. I have been actively meeting with potential sponsors the past few weeks to raise money to offset the cost of our events and contribute to our fundraising efforts. We also sent out emails through our own contacts as well as through the chambers of commerce to make area businesses aware of our sponsor opportunities.

Clean Up:

We are actively planning for this year's Clean Up. We have recruited volunteers and are preparing for the many details required to put on a successful event. Project CLEAR students will once again be involved in the Clean Up along with many volunteers, including numerous boat captains. As in the past we will have a cookout at noon for all Clean Up participants. We will also have new Clean Up t-shirts this year, which participants will also receive.