



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 12, 2012

Attending:

H. Berger	Sherman
F. Cioffi	Brookfield
H. Mayer	New Milford
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
E. Siergiej	Danbury
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
W. Lohan	Brookfield

Absent:

J. Murphy	Brookfield
P. Schaer	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
M Toussaint	New Milford
C. Caridad	New Milford
N. Gyle	New Fairfield
J. Hodge	New Fairfield

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

Recorder: E. Siergiej

Guests: J & S. Wodarski, New Milford
M. Propper, Danbury
D Taub & daughter, Danbury
M. Barret, Danbury
C. Bielert, CT Bass Fed. Nation

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: Ed Siergiej, Secretary, noted he had received no corrections to the minutes of the August meeting and asked for a motion to accept the minutes of the August 8, 2012 meeting moved by Harold Mayer, seconded by Bruce Kemble and voted with all in favor. Minutes accepted as written.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Berger advised that the Dragon Boat Race was a nice time – he noted four years ago it was just an idea that has turned into an annual well run community event with over 600 people either participating or attending some of which are not lake users. He added it is an event that the CLA can be proud of and first thanked Mark Howarth, Larry Marsicano, Shannon Ring and Frances Frattini for all the work they

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BY: 

put in for the event. He also noted that the Candlewood Lake merchandise has been well received at both the Dragon Boat Race and New Milford Village Fair Days. Mr. Berger advised that Dr Knoecklein was unavailable for this evening but will remotely attend next month. Mr. Berger noted that Dr Knoecklein's report did note that successive deep drawdown can effect the health of the lake by putting pressure on the species that live in that zone (Littoral Zone) and affecting the water quality noting that transparency is always worse after a deep drawdown thus summarizing that annual deep drawdowns would not be good for the health of the lake. Mr. Berger reported that the Invasive Species Sub Committee was formed to study the milfoil in the lake but the Zebra Mussel threat took up most of their time – now they will be focusing on the milfoil problem by looking in to ways to control it such as benthic barriers, weed harvesting, sterile grass carp, and the use of chemicals. Mr. Berger noted that just a deep drawdown is not what the CLA advocates but an “effective” deep drawdown which is that the lake is down to its deep level by mid-December to January 1st and then held there for 45 to 60 days and if the weather cooperates with cold/freeze and no snow cover before the freeze – the milfoil should be less of a problem next season. CLA will again have its drawdown tracking on the CLA website this year.

Other items of concern for the CLA are the dock at 59 Ta'agan Point, Danbury; and a swim area permit application for a Sherman resident. Also CLA is looking into sponsors/advertisers on the CLA website to promote their businesses and this will be discussed by the Public Awareness Committee at their meeting later this month.

Vice Chairman's Report: In there absence of the Vice Chairman there was nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer there was no report. Mr. Berger did note that the issue relating to New Milford and New Fairfield's appropriation which has not been resolved but will need to be.

Executive Director's Report: Larry Marsicano, Executive Director noted his written report is attached to these minutes. Areas covered included:

- Shoreline Monitoring
- Invasive Species
- Dragon Boat Race – Thanks to all and congrats for a great job
- Milfoil
- Bacterial and Water Quality Monitoring'
- Swim Area Review
- Grant report
- State Guidelines
- Annual Summery of Activities for Sherman's Annual Report

Mr. Propper added that it might be a good time to reconvene the Invasive Species Task Force.

Mr. Marsicano reported that Dr. Kelly should hear on his proposal before the end of the year.

Mr. Berger advised that WCSU is trying to determine the origin of the Zebra Mussels in the Housatonic using genetic material from other water bodies.

Public Education Director's Report: Mark Howarth's written report is attached to these minutes. He thanked the CLA staff for all their help and especially Shannon Ring for keeping it all organized. It was a great day as the rain had stopped by opening ceremonies and the sun appeared soon thereafter, there were 18 teams – Candlewood Isle again took first place, Candlewood Knolls took third and Candlewood East took second. There were three new corporate teams and everyone is looking forward to next year. He noted that a newsletter should be going out at the end of the week. He will be meeting with FirstLight about "No Camping" on the lake noting that he was advised that they have some new signage to that effect.

Committee Reports:

Equipment/Facilities: Ed Siergiej, Committee Chair, reported that it has been a good season, there have been no problems, the major rebuild of the ARK II needs just a few minor items and they are ready to start the end of the season closing.

Public Safety: In the absence of the Committee Chair, Frank Cioffi, committee member reported that they had met and discussed the swim area permit application from a Sherman resident. Mr. Berger noted that DEEP issues the permit but want local input from the CLA – he noted that swim areas could limit access to the lake by other user groups. Mrs. Frattini explained the swim area application process from an historical perspective. Mr. Berger noted a swim area is not the same as a dock, which is a right in a deed, and swim areas should only be permitted with exceptions. Discussion followed.

Mr. Berger thanked Chief Vane and the Patrol for a good job this year.

Watershed Management: Committee Chair, Harold Mayer reported that at their August meeting Mr. Marsicano provided a PowerPoint presentation of the tour of the New Fairfield shoreline properties with the Director of Health wherein they observed a number of activities both above and below the 440 –there was discussion and a request for research into who exactly is accountable for Inland/Wetland violations.

Also reported was the Ta'agan Point dock and Mr. Berger's contacting State Rep Godfrey for a meeting on the matter.

He reported the CLA submitted comments to Danbury on 50 Forty Acre Mountain Road, Danbury based on Mr. Gary Dufel's review of the plans. Also that 193-207 Great Plain Road/Savannah Hills subdivision project is back on the EIC agenda. Mr. Marsicano was to send out the commissioned report by Joseph Poluleck on the original proposal to Committee members.

Public Awareness In the absence of the Committee Chair there was no report.

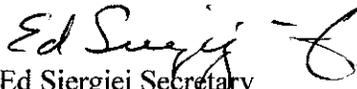
Any and All Business:

Mr. Taub from the audience spoke of the importance of the CLA taking a position on the milfoil control measures especially taking advantage of a winter that may be severe enough to affect the milfoil and the time restraints of the Utility – What can be done?? Discussion followed. It was noted that the 3rd week in January has some of the coldest weather of the winter and if the target is reached by then it should be effective but even if it is not then as the drawdown is gradual most of the area would be exposed to the freeze leaving only a foot or two.

Discussion turned back to Zebra Mussels and Mr. Berger noted that we are the Candlewood Lake Authority not the Western Connecticut Authority, not the Housatonic Authority but yet the CLA has taken the lead in trying to solve the Zebra Mussel problem. Our delegate, Phyllis Schaer, has become one of the most knowledgeable persons in the country on Zebra Mussels.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, Bruce Kemble moved to adjourn, seconded by Harold Mayer. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,


Ed Siergiej 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

August 2, 2012

Larry Marsicano

The following report summarizes activities of August 2, 2012 to September 5, 2012.

SHORELINE MONITORING / LAND USE

On August 20th a tour of the shoreline was conducted with New Fairfield Health Director Tim Simpkins and Town Sanitarian Michael McCarthy. A number of questionable activities above and below the 440 were noted. Subsequently, we provided 2006 baseline photographs of the sites where disturbances were observed. Other sites beyond New Fairfield were also revisited in August.

We were requested by Danbury EIC to review an application for regulated activity at 50 Ta'agan Point Road. Our comments were submitted to EIC. Thanks are extended to Gary Dufel, P.E., D.E.E., who continues to assist us with these reviews.

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT – ZEBRA MUSSELS

At the request of the Sherman First Selectman, we coordinated/facilitated a CT DEEP Ramp Monitoring Training held on August 10th at Mallory Town Hall. The training was scheduled to provide Park and Recreation Department staff working at the Town Beach training on aquatic invasive species, including zebra mussels. All P&R departments were encouraged to send their staff.

We continued to collaborate with WCSU on zebra mussel veliger sampling and analyses. We provided student training on August 13th. On August 16th and 17th, CLA led the last sampling trip of the season at Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah, and Zoar. Analyses using cross-polarization microscopy was conducted through out the month.

DRAGON BOAT RACES

The fourth annual Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Races was held on Saturday, August 18th. Congratulations to Mark Howarth, Shannon Ring and all those who contributed to the success of the event.

INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT – EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

The meeting we coordinated on behalf of the New Fairfield First Selectman was held on August 6th. Attendees included Dr. George Knoecklein, Greg Bugbee (CAES), Chuck Lee (CT DEEP), Brian Wood and Rich Laudenat of FirstLight Power Resources, Larry Marsicano and Harold Mayer of CLA, and First Selectman John Hodge. The meeting included a discussion of Dr. Knoecklein's

report on potential impacts of annual deep drawdowns and other potential methods of managing the milfoil. Marc Bellaud from Aquatic Control Technology was contacted during the meeting. CLA later coordinated and provided a tour of Candlewood for Mr. Bellaud and Mr. Bugbee on August 10th. A feasibility report on chemical control of milfoil was subsequently provided later in August, and distributed to meeting participants and CLA Watershed Committee members. CLA is in the process of scheduling a subsequent meeting in the later part of September.

WATER QUALITY & BACTERIA MONITORING

Water quality monitoring was conducted the week of August 27th. Secchi transparency has been particularly poor this month. Bacteria sampling performed each Tuesday with the last sampling date scheduled for September 4th.

Because of concerns of potential blue-green algal toxins, water samples were collected in the town beach areas of New Fairfield and Sherman and shipped overnight to GreenWater Labs in FL at the request of New Fairfield First Selectman John Hodge. A pre-toxin screening report for the samples sent was received from GreenWater on August 10th along with their assessment that algal densities were borderline with regard to recommending toxin analysis.

SWIM AREA REVIEW

On August 16th Ed Hayes, Jerry Murphy and I did a site visit in conjunction with an application for permit for swim area at 27 Orchard Rest Road, Danbury. An addendum to the application was received later in the month.

NU / CL&P

We have begun preparation of the report due to NU / CL&P as required as part of the grant they provided earlier in the year. The report is due in October.

STATE GUIDELINES FOR CT LAKES SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

The Statewide Task Force working on this project reviewed and commented on the draft document earlier in the summer and met with Fuss and O'Neil on August 7th at the CT DEEP offices in Hartford to discuss the draft. A number of revisions were recommended and a second draft is due out shortly.

OTHER

We met Glenn Renzolli who is working with the Greater Danbury Chamber of Commerce on August 22nd. Mr. Renzolli provided information on the Incumbent Worker Training Program which provides grants for reimbursement of up to 50% of training costs. We are investigating application of this program relative to training opportunities for CLA staff.

We will be participating in the Rocky Run Main Dam Functional Exercise, being held by FirstLight Power Resources on September 26th.



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September 12, 2012
Public Education
Mark Howarth

Dragon Boat Race:

We held the 4th Annual Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race on Saturday, August 18th, at Lynn Deming Park in New Milford. It was a successful day, which started out in the overnight and early morning hours with rain, but by the time the event started the rain had stopped and the sun came out for the remainder of the day (to the surprise of most CT weather forecasters). It turned out that the weather couldn't have been any nicer that day.

We had 18 teams competing this year and 6 of those teams were brand new to the event; three of the new teams were corporate teams. It was great to introduce the sport, event – and Candlewood Lake - to people in the area, and welcome back so many of our returning teams who come each year to enjoy the day and show their support.

In the weeks leading up to the event we were conducting and coaching team practices in the evenings and on weekend mornings. Teams were offered up to two privately coached team practices, and most every team took the opportunity to come for at least one team practice, with a number of them coming for two.

On race day, in addition to great racing we had Curtis Thompson sing an amazing rendition of our National Anthem, we had the UConn Taiko Drummers performing throughout the day and we had martial arts demonstrations from the Academy of Fighting Arts. Also, Louise Johnson painted the faces of many happy kids and Candlewood Stand Up Paddleboard offered visitors the opportunity to try stand up paddleboarding free of charge.

The CLA also had a booth at the event, staffed by our delegates, where we had information for visitors to learn about the CLA and what we do, as well as about Candlewood Lake and the issues facing the Lake. In addition we offered our Candlewood Lake merchandise for sale, where visitors were able to come away with a variety of Candlewood Lake t-shirts, beach towels and hats.

The top three finishers were: 1) Isle Stokers 2) Beasts of the East 3) Candlewood Knolls. The winner of the "Fired Up Award" for best team spirit and tent decoration – "Independent Realty" and the winner of the "Ultimate Drummer Award" went to Homestead Funding. The Candlewood Isle team also took the "Lake Community Cup" as the top Candlewood Lake community team.

September Electronic Newsletter:

We are in the process of putting out another CandlewoodNews electronic newsletter for the month of September. Some of the topics we are covering are the islands on Candlewood Lake, Project CLEAR, the CLA at Village Fair Days among others.