



CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

Minutes of Special Meeting December 15, 2014

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
H. Berger	Sherman
E. Hayes	Sherman
B. Brown	Brookfield
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
D. Rosemark	Danbury (electronically)
P. Eng	New Milford
M Toussaint	New Milford

Absent:

E. Siergiej	Danbury
C. Robinson	Danbury
J. Wodarski	New Milford
J. Hodge	New Fairfield
B. Kemble	New Fairfield

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

Recorder: M. Toussaint

Guests: S. Randall, Sherman
First Selectman Clay Cope, Sherman (8:29 PM)

Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, called the special meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:35 P.M. at Sherman Mallory Town Hall, Sherman, CT. She welcomed the guest.

Mrs. Schaer reported that the Agenda for the special Meeting is "Discussion and Action on the following 4 items:

1. CLA position on Buffer Acceleration on the Lake
2. Election of officers
3. Proposed 2015-2016 Budget
4. Clarification of FirstLight Power Permit Application request to residents."

CLA position on Buffer Acceleration on the Lake:

Mrs. Schaer thanked the delegates for attending and then asked Scott Randall to address the first item on the Agenda. Mr. Randall mentioned his September presentation regarding accelerating buffers with FirstLight under the SMP and a need to act. CLA supports buffers and the algal blooms of 2013 were a wake up call to the need. Mr. Randall reported that he had found that 73 waterfront homes had been sold while

FirstLight had only 36 properties listed in the same time period and 15 of these need a buffer but there has been no action, it looks like they will wait till the 5 years. He noted that at the Lake Advisory Committee meeting he had two proposals for FirstLight.

One was to change the 5 year post sale requirement to one year and the second was to require buffers in conjunction with waivers/grandfathering of existing encroachments i.e. tie the buffering to the waiver. He noted that FirstLight was noncommittal to either proposal. Buffers add value to the Towns in that they add value to the watershed by helping to protect and preserve the water quality of the Lake. Our Federal legislators – Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Congressman Esty have written to FERC to expedite the review but are looking for public input and support from the Towns, DEEP, NPS, to name a few. Discussion followed. It was noted that the requirement of a buffer within 5 years of a sale be shortened to one to two years for a compliance plan and implementation by the fifth year and on the 222 non-conforming structures to include these with the sales and require the buffers before any waivers or grandfathering. Mr. Randall noted that he has laid this out to FirstLight, Legislators and Town CEO's. Mrs. Schaer asked the delegates "would you be supportive of a graduated buffer requirement as presented by Mr. Randall? Howie Berger made a motion to support Mr. Randall's proposal on encroachment and post-sale buffering to protect the Lake, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. Mrs. Schaer thanked Mr. Randall for his report.

Mrs. Schaer welcomed Peter Eng the new delegate from New Milford.

Election of officers

Ballots and instructions on election procedure were passed out and there were no nominations from the floor. Ballots were cast and then collected by Mark Howarth, who announced that with a vote of 9 votes each (unanimous) the officers for the coming year would be:

Chairman	Phyllis Schaer
Vice Chairman	Mark Toussaint
Secretary	Howie Berger
Treasurer	Bill Lohan

Mrs. Schaer thanked all the officers for the past year of service and noted that the next year will be an interesting one as the Authority continues to pursue ideas to improve the water quality and safety on the lake.

Proposed 2015-2016 Budget

Mrs. Schaer began the budget discussion with a short overview of the past years' audits where the CLA came up short due to the lack of funding and had to use the reserve funds to cover expenses, large items not included in the budget were legal expenses for the boating accident suit, and the MOA with DEEP the additional costs for an umbrella for the liability insurance as required by the Towns with these items totaling over fifty thousand dollars and have now left the CLA reserve account depleted. This year the Budget has been prepared based on actual expenses and has items that have not been

previously included such as the Clean Up, Dragon Boat Race, Project CLEAR, etc. It also includes rate increases for utilities, gasoline, and insurance based on last year's actual costs. There is an explanation of the line items where necessary. Wages have been moved to the appropriate committee and removed from Administration. The budget includes an increased donation from FirstLight. There is a front sheet that lists the increases in expenses totaling over seventy thousand dollars and the budget also includes the CLA funding approximately one hundred thousand dollars of the budget expenses though fundraising, donations, grants and merchandise sales. The proposed Budget asks for \$74, 636.00 per town for the fiscal 2015/2016 year. Mrs. Schaer reported that she had met with the First Selectmen of Brookfield and Sherman and they are supportive of the proposed budget. She is trying to arrange to meet with the Mayors of New Milford and Danbury and the First Selectman of New Fairfield.

First Selectman Clay Cope joined the meeting at 8:29 PM

Jerry Murphy gave some figures of what the CLA budget cost each town per person; it runs from a low of \$1/per person in Danbury to a high of \$21/per person in Sherman. Mr. Brown noted that the property tax of just two or three homes in his lake community is more than the proposed appropriation that the CLA is asking for. Discussion on the economic value of the lake followed noting that most of the Lake Communities around the lake require little to no town services, some have no children attending local schools, many are seasonal residents, have private roads and yet all pay taxes that are higher than an equivalent home elsewhere in Town. If the Lake's quality goes down the economic value of the Towns will decrease. The CLA tries to be frugal but cannot fund the expenses without the support of the Towns. Mrs. Schaer reported on the idea to remove the Lake Patrol and have the DEEP patrol the lake. She has spoken to the EnCon Police Colonel Overturf and he advised that in the matter of Squantz Pond that is a State Park and DEEP is directly responsible for its operation but the Lake is privately owned and surrounded by five Towns-- the Towns could hire the DEEP to patrol but the DEEP is under no obligation to do so. Based on this information Mrs. Shear advised that the Lake Patrol cannot be removed and replaced by the DEEP. With no further discussion/questions, Howie Berger made a motion to approve with thanks to Mrs. Schaer, Mr. Lohan, Mr. Marsicano and Mrs. Frattini for all the work they have done on preparing the proposed 2015-2016 budget of \$543,182.00 (\$74,636 per Town), seconded by Bill Brown and voted with all in favor and Peter Eng abstaining. Motion carried, budget has been passed and will be forwarded to the Towns in a timely manner.

Clarification of FirstLight Power Permit Application request to residents.

Mrs. Schaer reported on the recent letters sent by FirstLight to the shoreline residents and municipalities for permits for structures/encroachments within the project boundary. She had spoken to Mr. Laudenant of FirstLight about the confusion that these letters have caused the residents and asked him for some clarification. He had advised that for a renovation, alteration or new purchase these applications must be completed in full and all required documents submitted but for all residents who just need to register their structures/encroachments (i.e. sea wall, docks, etc) they need only complete the first two sections of the form, check off the first box in the 4th section "Registration of

Existing Non-Project Uses and Occupancies”, sign and return the form to FirstLight; this will permit and grandfather what is already there, there is no fee and no fine. Presently, there are over 18,000 non-project use structures that require permits. Discussion followed. Mrs. Schaer noted that she will follow up with FirstLight on a proposal for the CLA to operate a pump-out boat on the lake to help with FirstLight’s requirement under the RMP, although the delegates did not think that this is something that the CLA can do.

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, *Mark Toussaint* moved to adjourn, seconded by *Bill Lohan*. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 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.

BY: 
2014 DEC 18 P 1: 16
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