



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

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

## Minutes of Regular Meeting January 14, 2015

Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
H. Berger	Sherman
G. Linkletter	Sherman
P. Eng	New Milford
M Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford
J. Murphy	Brookfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
D. Rosemark	Danbury
J. Hodge	New Fairfield

Absent:

E. Siergiej	Danbury
B. Kemble	New Fairfield
B. Brown	Brookfield

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

Recorder: H. Berger

Guests: S. Randall, Sherman  
 S. Wodarski, New Milford

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2015 JAN 20 A 11:35

BY: 

Phyllis Schaer, Chairman, called the regular meeting of the Candlewood Lake Authority to order at 7:37 P.M. at Brookfield Town Hall, Brookfield, CT. She welcomed the new delegates Peter Eng from New Milford and George Linkletter from Sherman and also the guests.

**Secretary's Report:** Howie Berger, Secretary, noted there were minutes from a few meetings that needed to be approved. *Bill Lohan moved to accept the minutes of the December 15, 2015 Special meeting as written, seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor. George Linkletter and Peter Eng abstained, motion carried and minutes accepted as written.*

*Bill Lohan moved to accept the minutes of the November 12, 2014 regular meeting as written, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. George Linkletter and Peter Eng abstained, motion carried and minutes accepted as written.*

Mr. Berger then noted that a number of additions suggested to the minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting had been proposed by John Hodge at the November meeting,

the approval of the October meeting minutes were tabled to next month. (As there was no regular meeting in December the minutes were deferred to this meeting.) After a brief discussion on the items the CLA Board did not agree with the additions and it was noted that since the October meeting one item had been resolved and the other two are still being researched. With no further discussion, *Mr. Berger moved to approve the minutes of the October 8, 2014 meeting as written, motion seconded by Mr. Lohan and voted with all in favor, John Hodge opposed and George Linkletter and Peter Eng abstained. Motion carried and the minutes accepted as written.*

**Chairman's Report:** Mrs. Schaer reported that at the budget hearing in New Fairfield the idea to do away with the Lake Patrol to save money was brought up and she reported that after discussion with DEEP she learned that the Lake is a different situation from Squantz Pond in that at a State Park DEEP is directly responsible for the public safety but on the Lake, which is privately owned, they do not have the same responsibility, which while DEEP's EnCon Police dedicates patrols in the interest of boating safety, the municipalities that border the Lake share responsibility in providing public safety. If the CLA Marine Patrol were to cease to exist then the EnCon Police Division of DEEP would reach out for assistance from the municipal police departments surrounding the Lake to determine what level of patrol those police agencies would provide in lieu of the CLA Marine Patrol. Some items that the CLA will be working on are updating the Action Plan for Candlewood, and speaking at the Sherman Town Meeting on the proposed septic walkover program. She reported that she and Mr. Marsicano had reviewed the tape of the New Fairfield Shoreline Stabilization Committee meeting as there is no CLA representative on that committee and were surprised by some of the inconsistencies of the content. Mrs. Schaer noted that the CLA is a resource of and benefit to the five towns and should be working together to solve problems. Moving forward the CLA Board will be working on the Triploid Grass Carp, the revision to the MOA with the DEEP for the operation of the Lake Patrol and the research by the attorney on the release of the restricted funds. Mrs. Schaer noted that the attorney asked if the Towns support the release of the restricted funds – this question will be researched. Also the CO2 research with Praxair – a Certificate of Insurance has been issued by the CLA insurance carrier CIRMA naming Praxair, the possibility of CLA operating a Pump-out Boat on the lake with 75% of the cost from a DEEP grant and the other 25% from FirstLight Power Resources. Discussion followed on the feasibility of the CLA operating a Pump-out boat followed. There was no conclusion, as further information is needed to be able to make a decision. One important question was about the liability of operating such a boat – the CLA insurance carrier will be contacted about this. Finally Mrs. Schaer reported that the Watershed Management Committee has moved its monthly meeting to the third Tuesday of the month.

**Vice Chairman's Report:** Mark Toussaint reported that there was no Public Awareness Committee meeting this evening as no meetings are scheduled for January and February but a Special Meeting will be called sometime before the next CLA meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Lohan, Treasurer, *made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended November 30 and December 31, 2014 as presented, motion seconded by Mark Toussaint and voted with all in favor. George Linkletter and Peter Eng abstained. Motion carried and Treasurer's Report of Income and Expenses for the months ended November 30 and December 31, 2014 has been filed for audit.* Mr. Lohan reported that it appears that the CLA is on budget and with committee spending under control and receipt of the balances due from Danbury, New Milford, New Fairfield and donations, the Authority should remain on budget.

Mrs. Schaer noted that the 2015-2016 budget that has been sent to the Towns has line item explanations to present a clearer picture of the CLA operations and hope that the Towns will be supportive.

**Executive Director:** Mr. Marsicano advised that his reports for December and January are attached to these minutes and reviewed highlights of the reports. He then gave a short slide presentation that he had given to the Brookfield Board of Selectmen on a prototype program that Brookfield may fund to minimize bringing invasive species into the Lake modeled after the program that is in effect at Lake George, this prototype will focus on ramps at Brookfield Town Park and at Lattins Landing, it will include inspectors, education and a cleaning station to remove any invasive species found.

Scott Randall updated the delegates on the progress of his plan for the phasing in of the progressive buffers under the SMP, he has been in contact with FERC, Senators Blumenthal and Murphy and Representative Esty, the Parks Service, and the DEEP, who all support the idea, as well as the CLA.

Mrs. Schaer reported that she has found that national Watershed Protection Guidelines are in the works and she will be sent a draft copy when it is ready.

What portion of the lake is/is not buffered? Discussion followed and it was decided that two things would be done – first to ask FirstLight if they have this information and to have an intern use GIS to see what is and is not buffered.

**Public Education Director:** Mark Howarth advised that his reports for December and January are attached to these minutes and reviewed the highlights of his reports. He then noted that he will be focusing on updating the website to HTML5 to make it easier to view on mobile devices, this should be done in time for the 2015 season.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Public Safety:** Jerry Murphy reported that Joe Wodarski had agreed to Co-Chair the committee with him. Discussion on the radios that need to be upgraded and the need to begin to think about replacing the patrol boats followed. Chris Robinson will research if there may be any government surplus vessels that may be available. Mrs. Schaer reported that the DEEP advised that the CLA could purchase the radios at the state contract price but the funding still needs to be found, it was noted that FirstLight may be willing to cover the cost and she will follow up on this.

**Public Awareness:** Mr. Toussaint noted all was covered previously.

**Equipment/Facilities:** In the absence of the Committee Chairman, there was no report. Mr. Marsicano advised that the DEEP will be replacing the state buoys that are deployed in Lattins and Squantz Coves for the 2015 season.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Mrs. Schaer asked the delegates to approve the appointment of the Committee Chairmen for the next year as follows:

Equipment/Facilities	Ed Siergiej
Public Safety	Jerry Murphy and Joe Wodarski
Public Awareness	Mark Toussaint
Watershed Management	Howie Berger

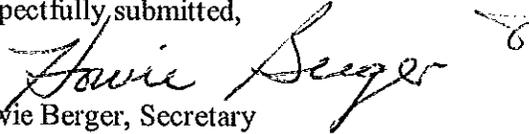
*Dan Rosemark moved to approve the Committee Chairmen as listed above, seconded by Jerry Murphy and voted with all in favor. The Committee Chairs have been approved.*

**Any and All Business:**

With no further business to come before the Candlewood Lake Authority, *Jerry Murphy moved to adjourn, seconded by John Hodge.*

*Meeting adjourned at 8:57 P. M.*

Respectfully submitted,



Howie Berger, Secretary  
Frances Frattini, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/lm & hb

*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 December 8, 2014 Larry Marsicano***

*The following report summarizes activities from November 6, 2014 to December 8, 2014.*

### ***State AIS Grant Proposal Approved / Eurasian Watermilfoil Management***

As reported earlier, our application to the State's AIS Grant Program for Municipalities was approved. We have been awarded \$50,000 dollars of the \$150,000 dollars available statewide this year to initiate a triploid grass carp program. I have expressed our appreciation to those in CT DEEP who were involved in the review of the 17 applications from 15 municipalities requesting \$295,000 dollars. Phyllis advised the five municipalities on the day we learned of the approval, November 24, 2014, and to date has heard back with congratulations from the CEOs of Brookfield and Sherman. We have also received congratulatory correspondence from local legislators, CT DEEP, faculty at WCSU, and members of the community.

We have contacted the CT DEEP to discuss the permit application which is the next step in the process which will determine how many carp we can stock and when approved will provide other conditions. We have been contacted by communities on Squantz Pond via email, phone or letter regarding hopes that Squantz will also get carp to address their milfoil there. The Town of New Fairfield has also forwarded the letter they have received from communities regarding this issue. I have spoken to one community and left phone messages for another to call. We did not specifically apply for carp for Squantz and there is little by way of baseline weed data for Squantz which was required in the grant application. I have raised this issue with the State and we will discuss it further as we make an application for a permit.

I received a call from a State certified aquatic herbicide applicator who was calling on behalf of the Deer Run Shores Community who wants to treat their cove with herbicides next season. The caller informed me that his community contact person was informed by FirstLight Power that the CLA would be submitting permits to the State on behalf those interested in treating with herbicides on Candlewood. I informed the caller that I was unaware of any role that the CLA had regarding applications for permits to use aquatic herbicides. We will need to investigate this claim and make sure all parties have the same understanding.

### ***FirstLight's Lake Advisory Committee Meeting***

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> members of the Lake Advisory Committee formed under the sections of the FERC license regarding the Shoreline Management and the Recreation Management Plans received an email invitation from FirstLight to participate in an 1 and ½ hour conference call in fulfillment of FirstLight's obligation to meet with the LAC. The purpose of the annual meeting is to discuss shoreline and recreation management issues of Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah, and Zoar. A number

of LAC members, including Phyllis and me, advised FirstLight that a face to face and longer meeting was more appropriate and preferable given the importance and number of issues to discuss. On November 10<sup>th</sup> we received an letter inviting us to a physical meeting with option to call in for Tuesday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. I attended as the CLA representative; Phyllis attended as the municipal representative for Sherman; and Bill Tinsley attended as the municipal representative for Brookfield. The other towns did not send representatives to the meeting. Other parties, including the other lake authorities, one of the two shoreline homeowner representatives, the National Park Service, and the CT DEEP were in attendance either in person or via conference call.

A number of issues were discussed and we received a number of reports to review and comment on within a 30-day comment period, including a Buffer Progress Report. Scott Randall, one of the shoreline homeowner representatives, presented a case for accelerating the revegetation of the shoreline. Mr. Randall presented his case to the CLA some months ago at our board meeting. Comments on the reports and the meeting, including things not covered in the meeting due to the limited time are due on December 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***FirstLight's Letter to Homeowners***

Last week owners of property abutting the 440 contour on Candlewood Lake received letters from FirstLight regarding non-project uses and non-conforming liveable spaces below the 440 with instructions on how to register/permit these. FirstLight intends to grandfather the 18,000+ non-project uses established before a date identified in the SMP but does not have the authority to permit the 222 non-conforming liveable space uses. That authority lies with FERC but FirstLight and local legislators have recommended to FERC that those be grandfathered as well.

Given some of the confusion and concerns of homeowners conveyed to us about the letter, we invited Len Greene from FirstLight to our office on December 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss concerns. Mr. Greene oversees FirstLight's government and regulatory affairs. Phyllis, Mark Howarth, Mr. Greene and I had a very constructive meeting and developed some possible solutions to resolve some of the confusion and concerns of the shoreline community.

#### ***CLA Budget Preparations***

Both staff and delegates have put in a many hours in preparing a realistic budget request for FY 2015/2016. On November 19<sup>th</sup> several Danbury Delegates and I attended the budget preparation meeting scheduled by the City of Danbury and shortly after received the forms for Danbury which are due on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Work on those has been started. Staff and/or delegates have met with several of the CEO's of the five municipalities to discuss a draft budget and received encouraging and helpful comments.

#### ***ACTION PLAN Revisited***

Several months ago, the Watershed Committee Chairman asked that we revisit the ACTION PLAN report which we originally released back in 2002. In there we made recommendations to the towns on what local land use documents (e.g. PoCD, Zoning Regulations, etc.) could be improved for the betterment of the lake. Following the Chairman's request several months ago we learned that the town CEOs had asked a consultant to provide a proposal to do something similar to what we had done back in 2000.

I have since approached Dr. Chris Kukk of the Social Science Department at WCSU, who is also the Director of the Honors Program, to see if he had students interested in contributing to this project of revisiting the ACTION PLAN. I have had two meetings with students and there are at least eight planning to work on a project to see what local changes have been made since 2002 and investigate new developments nationwide that are applicable to the ten areas identified in the ACTION PLAN that were deemed "risk factors."

I have also discussed with WCSU Dean Alexander of the School of Arts and Sciences the idea of providing credit to those students participating in the study. She is in agreement and excited about the opportunity to have University contribute to this community initiative.

#### ***Zebra Mussel Monitoring – NF High School Students***

I met with the New Fairfield School System Science Coordinator, Chris Tait (who is also a Project CLEAR teacher) and Dr. Mitch Wagener at WCSU to discuss involving some of the New Fairfield High School students in the analysis for zebra mussel veligers from samples collected at Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar. On November 24<sup>th</sup> Mr. Tait, Luke Mueller, Emily Van Vlack and I met at the High School to discuss the project and on December 4<sup>th</sup> we met at WCSU at Dr. Wagener's lab to train Luke and Emily. They will be joining Sophia Licht from NFHS who has already be analyzing samples.

#### ***MOA for oversight of CLAMP with CT DEEP***

On Wednesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Phyllis and I joined our Chief of Patrol Doug Vane, who scheduled/coordinated the meeting with the CT DEEP regarding our MOA. Representatives from the CT DEEP present included EnCon Police Col. Overturf, our EnCon Supervising Seargent Keith Williams and CT DEEP's Outdoor Recreation Bureau Chief, Michael Lambert. Aspects of the current MOA were discussed and informal agreements on what changes we could make were discussed. Other aspects of CLAMP were discussed. The meeting productive and we will begin drafting language for some minor changes in the MOA to be renewed in the new year.

#### ***2015 Winter Drawdown***

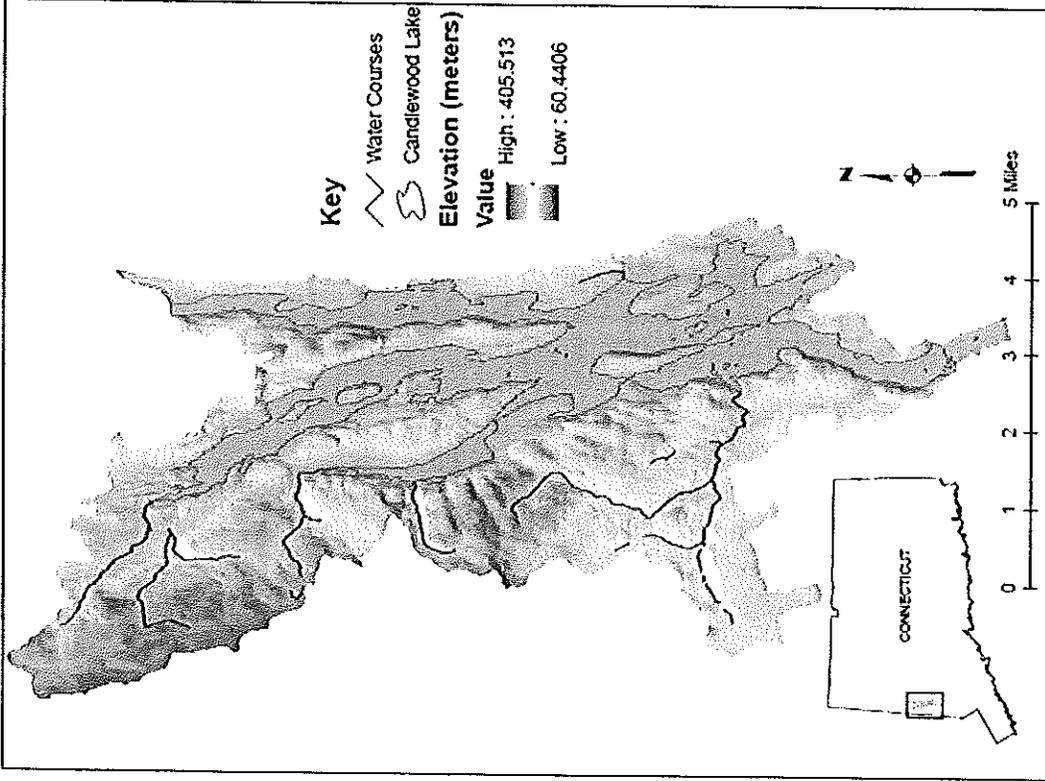
As of December 8<sup>th</sup> the lake level was 424.5. The original schedule discussed at the Technical Committee conference call of October 15<sup>th</sup> projected the lake to be at 425 by the beginning of December and at 423 by the beginning of January. Later in January FirstLight intends to reach 418 for a period of time hopefully corresponding with sub-freezing temperatures and no snow or ice on the exposed areas. Richard Laudenat has indicated that potential changes the hydropower market may work favorably to expedite the drawdown process.

#### ***Other***

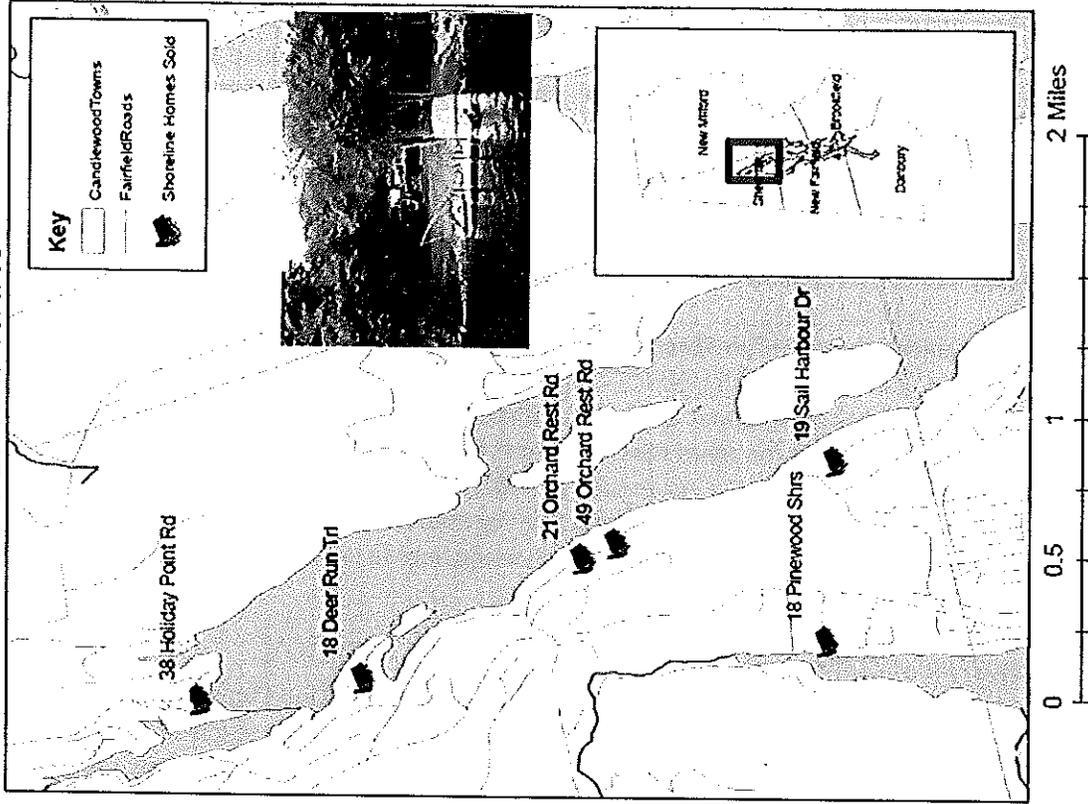
Over the last several months I completed an online GIS course offered by Pace University. I received Pace's *Certificate of Continuing and Professional Education* on November 27, 2014. See below for some examples of the project I did in the course.

I was asked and agreed to provide a guest lecture in the *Biology of the Environment* course at WCSU on December 8<sup>th</sup>.

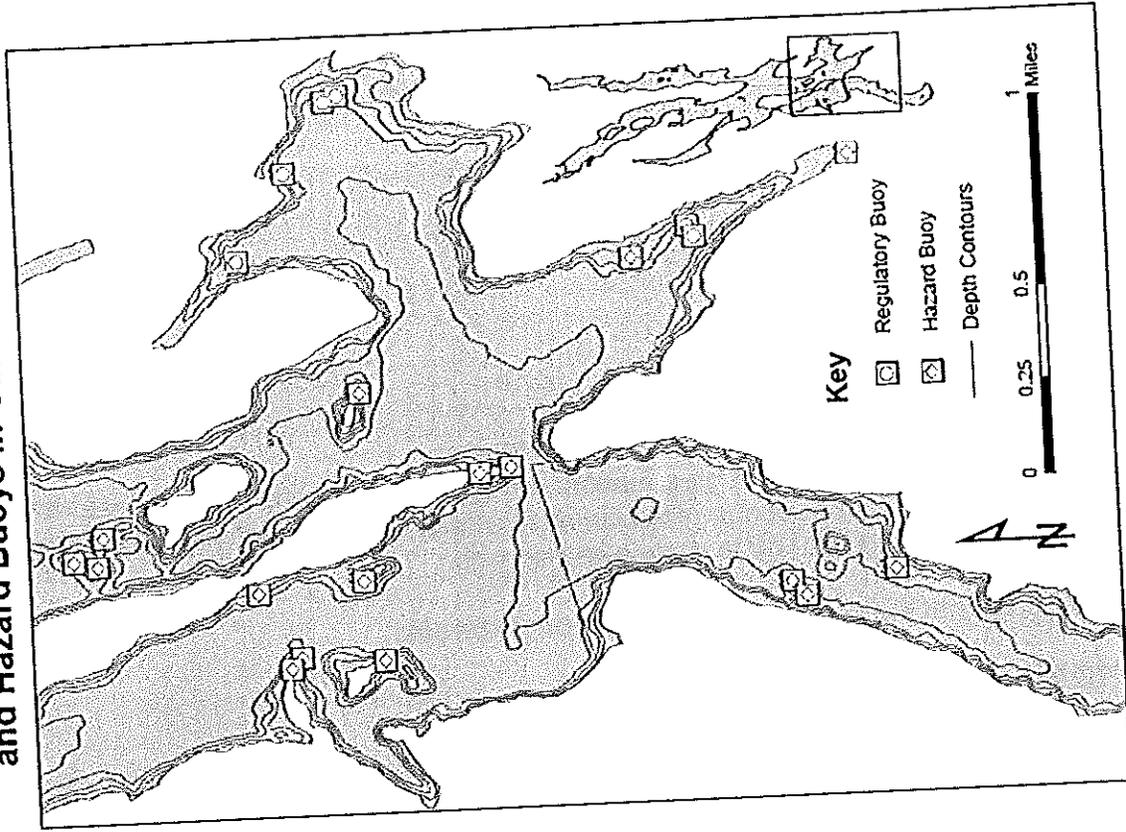
# Elevation Map of Candlewood Lake Watershed with Hillshading and Water Courses Identified



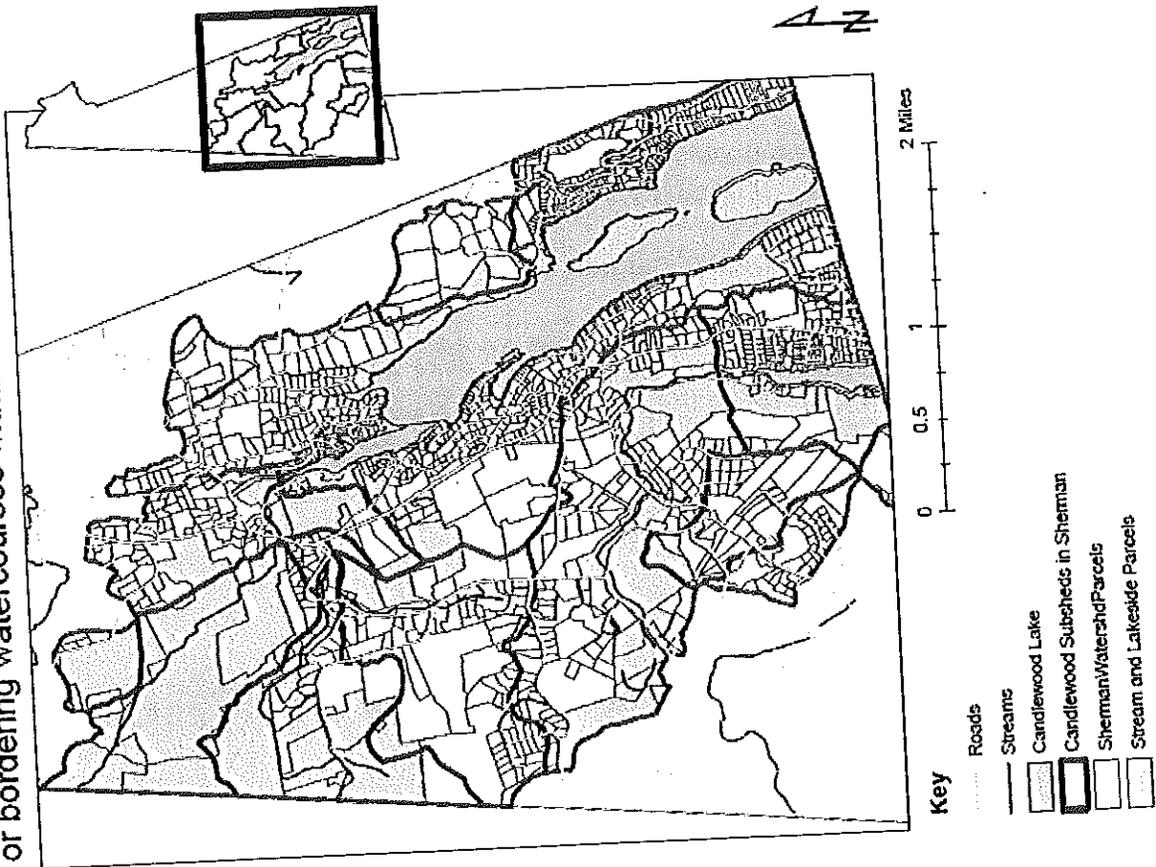
# Lakefront Homes in Sherman Sold From 3/28/13 to 10/1/13



Sample of the Placement of the Regulatory and Hazard Buoys in Candlewood Lake



Parcels in Sherman within 200 feet of Candlewood Lake or bordering watercourses within the lake's watershed





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**December 10, 2014**  
**Public Education**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Appeal:

The appeal letter has gone through a number of revisions and corrections as we have worked to get a good product out. We now have a final version which is going to the printer and will then be sent off to our mailing service.

We anticipate that the appeal will be going out next week.

## December eNewsletter:

On December 5<sup>th</sup> we set out a newsletter which announce the \$50,000 grant the CLA received from the CT DEEP.

The newsletter can be found at  
[http://www.icontact-archive.com/HJfY9l0NQYSQqba7g97DvtTeEuGICp9\\_?w=3](http://www.icontact-archive.com/HJfY9l0NQYSQqba7g97DvtTeEuGICp9_?w=3).

## Online Store:

We have worked on coming up with a number of new items for our online store, which will be available for holiday shopping.

Some of the new items are a travel mug, a new ceramic mug and new clothing.

## Citizen News:

We submitted an article in November for the Citizen News announcing the award Phyllis rec'd as well as recognizing Harold's work as a delegate for the CLA.

The article can be seen below.



# Candlewood Lake Authority

November 26th 2014

## Dedicated Candlewood Lake Authority Delegates Recognized

In case you're not familiar with the makeup of the Candlewood Lake Authority's volunteer Board of Delegates, it is made up of three appointed representatives from each of the five surrounding municipalities. Our delegates come from all walks of life, but they all share one common interest - the protection of Candlewood Lake, the quality of the water here and the safety of the boating public.



For the past six years, the members of the Candlewood Lake Authority have come to know the dedication and passion Phyllis Schaer has for the protection and preservation of Candlewood Lake. She was recently recognized for her work by the Northwest Conservation District. On October 22<sup>nd</sup>, Phyllis was named the Northwest Conservation District's Volunteer Award Winner at their annual meeting, held this year at the Candlewood Lake Club in Brookfield.

Above: Phyllis (center) accepted the award from Curtis Reed (left), Chairman of the Northwest Conservation District, with CLA Executive Director Larry Marsicano (right).

Phyllis has served on the CLA board for nearly 6 years now as a delegate from the Town of Sherman and her desire to get involved and take a lead role became quickly evident. A little more than a year after she joined the CLA, zebra mussels were discovered in Laurel Lake in Massachusetts and then in the Housatonic river in CT, including Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar. In response, the Candlewood Lake Authority quickly established the Zebra Mussel Task Force, a regional committee made up of members from the CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, Western Connecticut State University, Lakes Lillinonah and Zoar, CT BASS Nation and FirstLight Power, among many others. Phyllis, still one of the newest members of the CLA at the time, had taken a big interest in learning as much as she could about zebra mussels and offered to chair this new task force and take on the numerous responsibilities that come along with it.

Quickly, it became clear that Phyllis was jumping in with both feet and she has successfully led this committee since its inception in late 2010. But her dedication and interests in Candlewood Lake didn't stop there, nor did her quest for knowledge. Always seemingly ahead of the curve, Phyllis has been working hard on many other issues beyond zebra mussels, including finding answers to algae blooms in Candlewood Lake as well as the efforts to implement sterile grass carp in 2015 in Candlewood Lake to help control the Eurasian watermilfoil that plagues Candlewood during many summers.

For the past year, Phyllis has served as the Chairman of the CLA, and we are truly fortunate to have such a dedicated volunteer who is always working to better Candlewood Lake.

Likewise, for nearly 30 years, the CLA has been so lucky to have Harold Mayer serving on our board as a delegate from New Milford. Harold's passion for Candlewood Lake predates his time on the CLA and has spanned more than three decades. That passion, along with his dedication, has remained strong throughout the years. Harold's efforts have been focused through his role on the Watershed Management Committee, which he has been Chairman of since 2002. He also

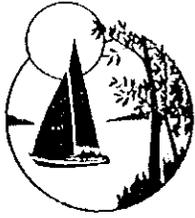
chaired the Land Use and Lake Preservation Subcommittee, which took the lead in writing the Candlewood Lake Authority's 2002 Action Plan for Preserving Candlewood Lake. This study produced recommendations for changes in local land use regulations which the surrounding municipalities could consider implementing for the protection of Candlewood Lake.



While Chairman of the Watershed Committee, Harold pursued one of his purposes in life - to preserve the wooded lands that surround Candlewood Lake. Harold's 30 year dedication to the Lake and his passion to protect the undeveloped shoreline and watershed of Candlewood deserves our thanks. Knowing how much the quality of a lake's water is impacted by development, Harold's work has benefited all of us who live on, swim in or enjoy boating on Candlewood Lake.

**Above: Harold is recognized in October for his years of dedication to the CLA.**

It's volunteers like Phyllis and Harold who devote so much of their time, expertise and leadership, that help make our lake such a wonderful place and we're proud to call them CLA delegates.



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**Executive Director's Report**  
**January 9, 2015**  
**Larry Marsicano**

*The following report summarizes activities from December 8, 2014 to January 9, 2015.*

**Budget Process**

Budget packets were assembled and sent to all towns on December 17<sup>th</sup>. A meeting between the Brookfield First Selectman, Brookfield Delegates, CLA Chair and I took place on December 4<sup>th</sup> to discuss our budget proposal. The meeting was very positive. Another budget meeting occurred in New Fairfield with BOS, member of BOS, and others on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Attending on behalf of the CLA was the CLA Chairman and myself. This meeting was not very positive. No other budget hearings are currently scheduled.

**FirstLight's Registration Process**

On December 31<sup>st</sup> we received correspondence from FirstLight with some additional instructions for homeowners with questions about the registration process for us to share. The correspondence included the following which we will be getting out via our communications soon if not by the time of our meeting.

*Subject: FirstLight Additional Instructions for FirstLight Letters Received*

*Dear Neighbor,*

*As shown in the Letter you recently received from FirstLight please call our call center at 1-860-946-6167.*

*The call center will enter your call in a log, recognize your unique HRPID # as provided on the letter and provide you additional instructions as needed.*

*In order to complete this "registration" process you must fill out the attached highlighted sections on page 3 of the permit application form provided in the mailing you received and mail it to the address below:*

*FirstLight Power  
P.O. Box 5002  
New Milford, CT 06776*

*In order to secure a permit for any "New, Modified and/or Repair of Any Uses" the same permit application form can be used. Please check the corresponding box for that request on page 3 and FirstLight will require at a minimum, those items defined in the Permit Application Check List, Section A – "REQUIRED INFORMATION FOR ALL APPLICATIONS" on Page 2. These permit application materials include:*

- 1. One Copy of Lineage of Deeds Identifying Deeded Rights if Applicable*
- 2. A drawing or location map showing the location, dimension, and configuration of any existing docks, structures, or other uses within the Project Boundary such as seawalls, retaining walls, walks, patio areas, steps or ramps to the water, boat racks, and beach or landing areas.*
- 3. Map and/or Photographs Documenting any Existing Vegetated Buffer Areas including naturally vegetated areas, areas planted with shrubs, ground covers, or perennials, and canopy or understory trees. (See FirstLight's Shoreline Management Manual)*

*If you have any questions, please contact FirstLight's Land Management Department at 860-946-6167.*

*Land Management Department*

#### ***AIS Initiatives***

The AIS working group that originally went to Lake George, NY in September met again on the afternoon of December 15th. At that meeting First Selectman Bill Tinsley shared a strawman Power Point Presentation on a proposed pilot ramp inspection and boat/trailer decontamination station program modeled after the Lake George program. CLA took the lead on polishing and revising the presentation based on comments by the working group. I am currently planning to quickly share that presentation at the board meeting. The working group met again on the evening of January 5<sup>th</sup> prior to a Brookfield BOS meeting to review the presentation and afterwards, I shared the presentation at the BOS meeting on behalf of and with the assistance of the working group. The BOS voted in favor of a motion to support the pilot. I will be sharing the same presentation at the Brookfield BOF meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup> prior to our meeting.

On the morning of December 18<sup>th</sup>, Tom McGowan from the Lake Waramaug Task Force and I met with Senator Clark Chapin, Ranking Member on the CGA's Environment Committee to discuss the CT AIS program and encouraged the continuation of the funding for the program. I have also had correspondence with Rep. Dave Arconti of the 109<sup>th</sup> District who is now Vice Chair

We have been monitoring the lake level, e.g. in mid December the lake was at approximately 425 ft, on January 1<sup>st</sup> just over 422, and at the time this report was written the lake was at 419.6 ft. Based on January 8<sup>th</sup> correspondence with Richard Laudénat at FirstLight...

- FirstLight is planning to go below 419 (nominal 10 ft. from max pond level)

- Hold for a week of below freezing temperatures on a daily average basis
- Use 418+ to 420 for pumped storage plant operation (economic dispatch) if river flows and ice conditions allow. The reality of this is that the river flows typically fall below levels that they need to be able to pump and the river is full of ice and they can't pump then as well
- Begin the pump up operations based on their best estimate of when river flows begin to increase along with the time when the lake has to be at recreational level.

On Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup> we assisted Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station with the deployment of sediment temperature and soil moisture probes in areas of the lake bed exposed by the deep drawdown.

Western Connecticut State University was named for the second year in a row to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The 2014 designation recognizes the University's commitment to volunteering, service-learning and civic engagement. Part of recognition was for the work of Dr. Mitch Wagener and Dr. Edward Wong and their students in research on the threat of invasive species such as zebra mussels in Candlewood Lake and several other bodies of water in the region. Candlewood Lake Authority is one of the collaborators and helped develop the program of monitoring zebra mussel veligers in Lakes Candlewood, Lillinonah and Zoar.

### **Buffers**

I have continued to correspond with Scott Randall with regards to stepping up buffer requirements associated with the SMP. I have also received and responded to calls or emails from staff from Senator Blumenthal's and Senator Muphy's office regarding our position on buffers.



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**January 14, 2014**  
**Public Education**  
**Mark Howarth**

## **Appeal:**

The appeal letter was mailed in December and we have been getting both mailed and online donations submitted to us as a result.

## **End of Year eNewsletter:**

On December 30<sup>th</sup> we set out an electronic newsletter which recapped our year here at the CLA. We gave a monthly breakdown starting with March's "State of the Lake" meeting and went through our December appeal process, while highlighting the numerous events and different areas of focus for the CLA throughout the year.

The newsletter can be found at:

<http://www.icontact-archive.com/HJfY9l0NQYSQqba7g97DvmMwQmX8Cvw7?w=3>

## **HTML 5 Website:**

We are in the process of doing a complete redesign of our website, building it in-house, using HTML 5. After taking some time off for end-of-year work requirements, we are back working on the new site.

This site will replace the current site, which is a Flash-based site. The advantages of HTML5 over Flash are that our site will now be more universally viewable, most notably on iPhones and iPads, which don't support Flash.

In addition, the new site should also feature a "mobile friendly" version, which will make viewing easier on all smartphones.

We are hoping to have the new site ready and approved for roll out at the start of the 2015 Lake season.

## **Year In Review:**

We created a recap of the 2014 season highlights for the CLA, which has already been presented to the Town of New Fairfield in preparation for the budget process and will be made available to the other municipalities for their review as their processes move forward.



## 2014 CLA Highlights

**State of the Lake:** March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting between CLA and representatives from Candlewood's Lake Communities, Businesses and other engaged lake citizens.

- Attended by 80 individuals
- Approximately 40 different Lake Communities, businesses and organizations represented
- Topics of discussion: Environmental and public safety issues on Candlewood Lake
- Presented by the CLA with anticipated 2015 event coming.

**Hazard Buoys:** CLA staff is responsible for deploying and removing around 80 hazard, speed and navigation buoys on Candlewood Lake each year.

- Deployed in April, with pre-opening day fishing target date for completion
- Buoys maintained, as part of contract with the CT DEEP, throughout the summer
- Removed in October, following boating season, cleaned and stored by CLA for the winter

**Water Quality Testing:** CLA's water quality monitoring program dates back over 30 years, to 1981, and has been in continuous operation since.

- Through CLA sourced donations and grants, the CLA purchased a new state-of-the-art water quality probe, replacing a 10-year old probe.
- New probe gives the CLA the ability to determine relative blue-green algae count samples
- Testing begins by May and runs through October

**Candlewood Lake Clean Up:** CLA's John Marsicano Memorial Candlewood Lake Clean Up was held the Saturday before Memorial Day Weekend.

- Over 150 volunteers, including 30 boat captains
- 14<sup>th</sup> year for the CLA's Lake Clean Up
- Debris exceeding a stuffed 30 yard dumpster collected from Candlewood's shoreline
- Event included a donated cookout for all participants

**Project CLEAR:** Project CLEAR (Candlewood Lake Environmental Awareness and Responsibility) is a popular Lake research program offered to area students the week after school gets out for the summer each year from Bethel, Brookfield, Danbury, New Fairfield and New Milford high schools – a cooperative effort between the CLA and Education Connection, which administers the State grant that funds the program.

- Project CLEAR has provided over \$1 million of educational benefit to area students over the course of the program.
- Nearly 125 area students participated in this unique hands-on, week-long, educational experience.
- Students were trained and did research for the week in one of 10 different research groups, including water quality, fisheries, plankton, forestry and streams among others.

**CLA Marine Patrol:** In operation for over 40 years, since the CLA began in 1972, currently supervised and trained by the CT DEEP EnCon Police.

- Approx. 2,000 man-hours logged

- Combination of POST Certified and non-POST certified officers in boat patrols and Personal Watercraft patrols
- Enforcement of all applicable boating law, performed vessel safety checks
- Participated in Operation Dry Water (BUI enforcement) with CT DEEP EnCon Police
- Participated in outreach events including New Fairfield Day, Brookfield's Kid's Day, Brookfield's Four Corners Day and New Milford's Safety Day at Home Depot.
- Worked in partnership with CT DEEP EnCon Police at annual Independence Day fireworks display at Danbury Bay, helping to ensure the safety of thousands of boaters.

**Events and Outreach:** CLA organized many events and participated in numerous others.

- Village Fair Days - 3<sup>rd</sup> year the CLA has returned to this 2-Day July event with a booth to meet with and interact with the public.
- Candlewood Lake Dragon Boat Race - 6<sup>th</sup> year for this August CLA event held at Lynn Deming Park in New Milford. Event is attended by hundreds of racers from around the lake, area towns and businesses as well as spectators.
- New Fairfield Day - Participated for second time in 2<sup>nd</sup> annual event
- Brookfield Kid's Day - Participated for third year in 2014
- Brookfield Four Corners Day - Participated in inaugural event
- Sherman Memorial Day Parade - Annual participant
- New Milford Safety Day - Regular Participant
- State of the Lake - Inaugural CLA event, as described above
- Candlewood Lake Clean Up - 14<sup>th</sup> year of CLA event, as described above
- Regular eNewsletters distributed to CLA email list
- Recurring CLA column in NF Citizen News began September 2014

**Invasive Species:** CLA has led the CLA's Watershed Committee Invasive Species Task Force since 2010. This task force combines members from numerous area groups, institutions, organizations etc. including: Western Connecticut State University, CT Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection, Friends of the Lake (Lillinonah), Lake Lillinonah Authority, Lake Zoar Authority, CT BASS Nation, FirstLight Power Resources, etc. and focuses on zebra mussel spread prevention.

- Billboards - CLA raised funds with the help of CWI to continue roadside billboard program to educate boats about preventing the spread of zebra mussels.
- Ramp Stencils - CLA began stenciling area boat ramps with CLEAN DRAIN DRY Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers messaging with stencils donated to CLA by CT DEEP
- Volunteer Zebra Mussel Monitoring Program – CLA distributed 21 zebra mussel monitoring stations at the State of the Lake event to area residents, which were then placed in the water and regularly monitored by residents for signs of zebra mussels.

#### **Algae Blooms:**

- Satellite Imagery - CLA purchased satellite images, similar to methods used by NASA, of specific dates for Candlewood Lake to help pinpoint pollution sources and provide a more accurate lake-wide evaluation.
- Water Probe – As mentioned above, new CLA probe, through grants and donations, can now detect relative blue-green algae levels.
- Secchi Disc Monitoring - CLA trained and led a group of volunteers, both lake-front property owners, and town park life guards, to take regular Secchi disc readings and record and submit their findings to the CLA in an effort to get more widespread data on the transparency of the Lake's waters, which can provide information regarding trends towards algae blooms among other things.

**Collaboration:** The CLA collaborates with numerous organizations and the public to assist with beneficial lake programs.

- Western Connecticut State University - Partnership with WCSU who made the Presidential Honor Roll for Community Service for their work on zebra mussel monitoring, in collaboration with the CLA.
- New Fairfield Senior Center - CLA-led Bacteria Monitoring Program with the NF Senior Environmental Corps, who gather weekly samples from nearly 20 sites around the Lake and drop them off at the lab for testing from Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend.
- General Public - As noted above, the CLA has regularly engaged resident volunteers who monitor zebra mussels stations and take regular Secchi disc readings.
- Winter Drawdown Publication - CLA co-authored a paper in a peer-reviewed scientific journal examining conditions associated with effective winter drawdowns.

**Grass Carp Grant:** The CLA worked with and talked in depth with many experts in various fields about different lake-wide milfoil control options, before deciding upon pursuing sterile triploid grass carp as the best option for Candlewood Lake, both for effectiveness and cost.

- CLA gained town support for matching part of grant and worked to submit an effective, compelling and complete grant application.
- In November, the CLA was awarded the full amount of their grant request by the CT DEEP, \$50,000.
- Next steps are waiting on regulation change to allow CLA to move forward with a permit application to hopefully stock sterile grass carp in Candlewood in 2015.

**Appeal Letter:** The CLA sent out its annual fundraising appeal letter in December.

- Mailed out to over 5,000 area residents.
- Electronic Appeal also sent out to CLA's email list.

