



# CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY

Member Municipalities: Brookfield • Danbury • New Fairfield • New Milford • Sherman

PO BOX 37 • SHERMAN, CT 06784 • P (860) 354-6928 • F (860) 350-5611

## Minutes of Regular Meeting September 9, 2020, 7:30PM via ZOOM due to COVID-19

### Attending:

P. Schaer	Sherman
D. Cushnie	Sherman
J. Main	New Fairfield
J. Archer	New Fairfield
W. Lohan	Brookfield
M. Gaffey	Brookfield
C. Robinson	Danbury
M. Toussaint	New Milford
J. Wodarski	New Milford

### Absent:

B. Licht	New Fairfield
D. Rosemark	Danbury
E. Siergiej	Danbury
S. Kluge	New Milford

J. Neil Stalter, Director of Ecology and Environmental Education  
Jeannine Usher, CLA Administrative Coordinator  
Ron Barnard, Chief, Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol  
Nick Mellas, Assistant Chief, Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol  
Henry Dyson, Captain, Candlewood Lake Authority Marine Patrol

Recorder: J. Usher

Guests: 2

Phyllis Schaer called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

*Ms. Schaer made a motion to add the Treasurer's Report to the consent agenda, seconded by Joan Archer with all voting in favor.*

### Public Comment:

none

### Consent Agenda

*Ms. Schaer made a motion to approve all of the items on the consent agenda, seconded by Marianne Gaffey with all voting in favor.*

## **CANDLEWOOD LAKE AUTHORITY MARINE PATROL**

CLAMP Chief Ron Bernard provided an update for the delegates, Labor Day Weekend went smoothly with no accidents. Chief Barnard thanked Doug Cushnie for his efforts with taking care of the boats.

### **Chairman's Report:**

Ms. Schaer reported that the Inventory list is being updated and will be reviewed with Sandra Wellwood. The passing of Former Patrol Chief Douglas Vane and Brookfield Delegate Jerry Murphy was noted with sadness. Jeannine Usher will coordinate donations to the Wounded Warrior Project in memory of Mr. Vane and to the United Way in memory of Mr. Murphy (as requested by the families).

### **Vice-Chairman's Report:**

*Mark Toussaint will report in Watershed Management.*

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Bill Lohan will have an update on the budget and procurement policy at the next executive meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Public Safety Committee:**

Joe Wodarski updated the group and Assistant Chief Mellas provided patrol statistics to the BOD.

### **Equipment/Facilities Committee:**

Doug Cushnie provided an update. Everything has been going well in the past month or so.

### **Public Awareness Committee:**

A social media committee is working on how to expand the CLA presence. A group of volunteers is doing an island clean-up this weekend and BOD members are welcome to join.

### **Watershed Management Committee:**

Some information is covered Neil Stalter's report. WM met last on August 19<sup>th</sup>. The monitoring probe was repaired. Mr. Stalter provided an update on the Lake Management Plan. A letter will be sent to thank the divers for their help with zebra mussels.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Task Force Update**

A survey concerning public safety practices has been sent out to 10 other lakes. An additional survey covering environment best practices will be sent out by the end of September.

### **Sterile Grass Carp Restocking Plan and AIS Stamp Grant Plans**

Both were covered under WM. We will check back next month.

**Board & Delegate Planning**

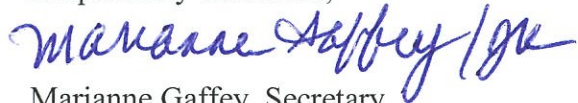
The BOD is working on filling 2 empty positions on the BOD.

**ADJOURN**

*Ms. Gaffey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Lohan, with all voting in favor.*

The meeting adjourned at 8:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marianne Gaffey / gu". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marianne Gaffey, Secretary

Jeannine Usher, Administrative Coordinator

r/b/ps

*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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**September 9, 2020**  
**Executive Director**  
**Mark Howarth**

## Monthly Report

### **COVID-19**

I continue to work remotely while also spending some time at the Sherman Base/on the water.

### **2020 Candlewood Lake Recreation**

The last week of August there were additional changes to the lake's recreational access. The City of Danbury closed their town launch and the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection closed one State ramp (Lattins Cove, Danbury) and restricted the other state ramp (Squantz Cove, New Fairfield) to 50% parking capacity. The CT DEEP press release announcing the closure and restrictions is at the end of my report.

The islands remain closed to the public, as previously announced by FirstLight.

### **CLA Task Force**

I have been working closely with Marianne Gaffey and Joan Archer, who have been named co-chairs of the task force created to determine how the CLA can best address the recreational and usage challenges the lake has been faced with this summer, and in recent years.

### **Phone System**

We are planning to migrate to a new phone system for the CLA to improve the functionality over the current system we have. We are working with Microsoft to utilize a phone system that is an additional service in our current software plan. It will provide us with many new features, it is suited to remote work when necessary and will allow for much more efficient voice message workflow for the staff and it should provide us with slight cost savings over our current system.

### **Lake Winnepesaukee Association**

Kate Bishop, the Development Director of the Lake Winnepesaukee Association, had reached out to me to see if we could “meet” and discuss our lakes and organizations. We had a great conversation and learned about what they do, how they operate and some of the challenges they face on their lake and I was able to tell her about the CLA and Candlewood Lake as well. We look forward to continuing to learn and share information with the Lake Winnepesaukee Association as well as with other area lake organizations.



August 25, 2020

## **DEEP Temporarily Restricts Candlewood Lake Boat Launches, Increases Monitoring**

### **Lattins Cove Launch Closed, Squantz Cove Reduced Capacity**

Gov. Ned Lamont announced today that the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) will close the Lattins Cove state boat launch and limit parking capacity to 50% at Squantz Cove state boat launch beginning Wednesday, August 26. DEEP staff and Environmental Conservation officers will also increase outreach and monitoring to deter and identify gatherings on the water and at state boat launches.

These precautionary measures were developed in coordination with the Connecticut Department of Public Health and local officials in Danbury, which has seen a significant uptick in new infections over the last two weeks. They are being taken in order to provide safe outdoor recreation opportunities while also addressing specific concerns expressed regarding behaviors on Candlewood Lake inconsistent with COVID-19 prevention guidance.

“Over the last several weeks, Connecticut has had one of the lowest COVID-19 infection rates in the country, thanks to the efforts of our residents, health officials, and local leaders to keep themselves and others safe,” Gov. Lamont said. “We’ve seen an uptick in COVID-19 infections in Danbury, and when we see these kinds of upticks, we’re taking swift action to maintain our hard-won progress. We’re doing everything we can in partnership with Danbury’s elected officials and members of the community to mitigate further community spread.”

There have been numerous reports of “rafting,” on Candlewood Lake, where several boats tie-up together in a mass gathering, as well as large gatherings on the islands, which have been closed to the public since August 1. Whether on water or on land, people are reminded of the

continued importance of following social distancing guidelines, including wearing masks and limits on the size of outdoor gatherings.

“DEEP is proud to have been able to maintain access to outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the pandemic,” DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said. “We’ve been able to do so thanks to the efforts of visitors who take proper precautions when enjoying our state’s beautiful natural resources. We need those good behaviors to continue, and we’ll be monitoring to ensure that everyone has a safe, enjoyable experience in the outdoors.”

These measures will be in place for at least two weeks, but may be extended or increased based on the continued prevalence of behaviors inconsistent with COVID-19 social gathering and prevention guidelines.



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**J. Neil Stalter**

**Director of Ecology and Environmental Education**

**Candlewood Lake Authority**

**Re:** September Meeting: Monthly Report

**Date:** 9/9/2020

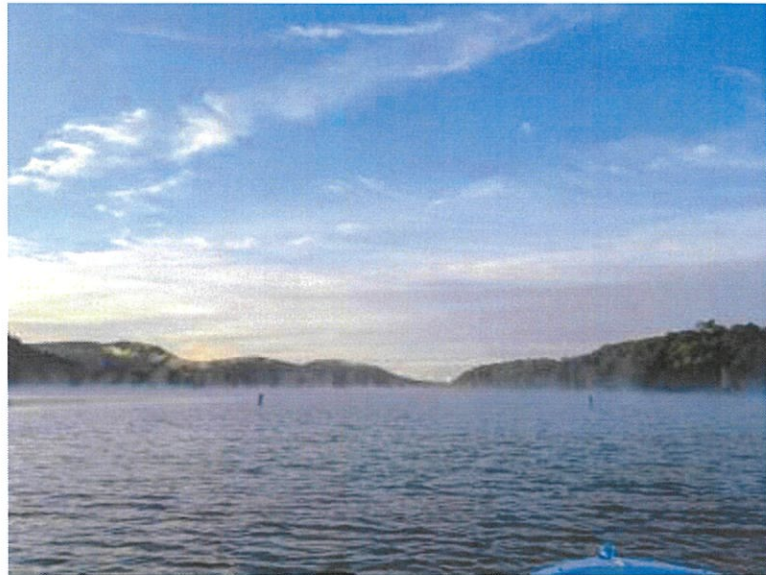
- I am still working almost entirely remotely due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and am focusing on tasks that I can accomplish from home.
  
- Water Quality monitoring continued in August, and we are awaiting the lab results.
  - We are getting record breaking secchi clarities in August, with a high of 5.41m. The highest on record so far is 5.09 meters once in 2006, but no other measurements above 5m.
  - I am working on a newsletter celebrating the clarity, and talking a little about the science behind water clarity, how it's measured, and what can cause it to be so high.
  - Unfortunately Steve and I were able to temporarily repair the Eureka Probe for monitoring on Candlewood in August, but ran into additional malfunctions following that. Thankfully Larry from AER was willing to lend us their probe for Squantz. We will pursue a more thorough repair through Eureka at this point – but there will be no interruption of our normal monitoring.
  - We just received the July WQ monitoring results, and I am currently working on the monthly report for the July monitoring. (We are seeing very few nutrients in the surface water this summer, possibly explaining our high clarity).



- I organized a meeting with the Lake Management Plan subcommittee to discuss erosion on Candlewood Lake.
  - We were able to get some really valuable info about where the stakeholders' priorities lie and what we should be working to address first when creating our plan.
  - I am working to schedule a follow up meeting with FirstLight, as they were not able to attend the first meeting.

- I woke up early for 3 days this month to conduct our annual resident boat count. Big thank you to Steve Kluge for driving me in his boat, and waking up that early with me to help.

- We saw an increased count in every category, but only an increase of 10 registered boats w/o a cabin. The other notable increase was 40 PWCs. No huge spikes or surprises. We will include this info in a future newsletter.



- Our monthly plant sampling continued in August as well – and we have nothing concerning or out of the ordinary at any of the public launches around the lake.
- The not wanted campaign is complete, and we should be receiving final digital files to do a full rollout very soon. These were sent in a Newsletter this month for our email list to see as well.
  - We will also be creating sample signage to propose to the towns and DEEP to evaluate possible placement at launches.
- We are continuing to get reports of no activity on any of the DIY monitoring stations around the lake looking for Zebra Mussels.
  - I will be reaching out to C&D maintenance to possibly schedule another dive in September.
- The weekly E. Coli Sampling program, Cyanotoxin testing program, and Weekend weather reports are ending as of Labor Day weekend.



- No samples came back high for cyanotoxins this year (all samples below 1 ppb, further indicating a low blue-green algae year compared to previous years).