



# MINUTES

**Thursday - July 21, 2022**

**5:30 PM**

**Lake Paran – North Bennington**

Present: Sheila Kearns, Paul Myers, Camille Kauffman, Stacey Trudo, Sara Pelkey, Christine Hallquist, Andrew McKeever, Tim Scoggins, Dan Monks, Cat Bryars, Kelly Barton, Michael Fernandez, Rich Zoppel, Lydia Stevens, Cinda Morse, Dana Rozycki, Flavio Jiminez, Charlie Rockwell, John LaVecchia, John LaVecchia, Jr.

Staff: Jim Henderson, Scott Grimm-Lyon, Callie Fishburn, Jim Sullivan, Jonathan Cooper, Mark Anders, Amanda Stevens, Bill Colvin, Josh Kirschner

After enjoying a meal prepared by Jim Henderson, Scott Grimm-Lyon, and Callie Fishburn, the meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM.

I. Minutes of March and May 2022 Meetings

Motion (Morse): Approve as presented. Second by Monks. Passed unanimously.

II. Lake Paran Programming

Presentation (attached) by Camille Kauffman of Paran Recreations. Camille Kauffman, currently VISTA for Lake Paran and soon to begin as Director of Paran Recreations, presented an overview of the facilities, resources, and programs offered at the Lake. Strong focus on outdoor recreation as well as outdoor education. Many summer camp programs and every effort made to ensure they are affordable and accessible to all. Bennington College faculty and students participate in programs.

Paran Recreations also has been cooperating with Bennington College through their Mellon Grant to focus on Food Justice. The facility's kitchen is used in the off-season to support various food access and education programs – with Bennington College, Shires Housing, Highland Hall Gardens, and others.

Paran Recreations also has worked with the BCRC and the Bennington County Conservation District on conservation initiatives. Ongoing efforts to control invasive aquatic vegetation.

Events: stone skipping competition, fireworks, polar plunge, and other community activities, plus facilities are available to be rented for private events.

Jim Henderson discussed environmental projects, existing and proposed, on Lake Paran and Paran Creek.

### III. Broadband Deployment in Bennington County

Christine Hallquist, Director of the Vermont Community Broadband Board, discussed efforts to expand broadband coverage throughout the state. Noted challenges associated with rural nature of the state – difficult business proposition requiring public support. Covid pandemic demonstrated just how critical is internet connectivity, especially because many underserved households are low-moderate income.

Christine recognized the work of the BCRC, Southern Vermont CUD, and Consolidated Communications in making great advances in the region. \$350 million + committed to get this work done statewide; CUDs are able to access the remaining funds needed to build viable plans, often working with businesses like Consolidated.

State has stocked up on fiber to keep the process moving forward. Sheila Kearns from the SVT CUD added information about the relationship between the fiber extensions and existing cable-based services. In response to a question, discussed “starlink” satellite technology and its limitations relative to fiber.

Stacey Trudo, Sara Pelkey, and Kelly Barton presented information about Consolidated’s (Fidium Fiber) work in the area (summary sheet of services and products attached). Discussed public outreach and sponsorship of community events. In response to a question, discussed plans and schedules for serving rural communities in the CUD.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.

# Lake Paran: Updates and Happenings



# Lake Paran: Recreation and Outdoor Education

Our mission is to be stewards of the local environment and bring the natural beauty of Southern Vermont to people of all backgrounds, while also providing healthy, outdoor fun!

\*Filling the gap outdoor education programs in the Bennington area since the closure of One World Conservation Center in 2018.



# Outdoor Education



## OUR VILLAGE SUMMER CAMP

Lake Paran + North Bennington Community Partners

June 20th-August 19th

1-week day camp sessions

Monday-Friday 9.00am-3.00pm

Join Lake Paran and our partners for a week-long day camp program that will focus on outdoor recreation, place-based activities + learning. Each week, campers ages 5-12 will explore the unique resources that make our communities so special like the Hiland Hall Gardens, the McCullough Library, Lake Paran, the Vermont Arts Exchange and more!

Register at:

[lakeparanvt.org/programs-and-camps](http://lakeparanvt.org/programs-and-camps)

\$250 per camper – scholarships available





Con't



# Food Justice



*Save Money,  
Waste Less*

Free

Cooking Classes at  
Lake Paran

**When  
& Where**

Thursdays, in May  
(12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>)

6 pm - 7:30 pm

Lake Paran

269 Houghton St.  
North Bennington, VT  
05257

Overwhelmed with bulk food products  
from the food bank? Join us!

- Learn how to process and save excess food to reduce waste and save money
  - All ingredients supplied
- All students will earn FREE food safety cutting boards

Questions & or Registration

email [lakeparanvista@gmail.com](mailto:lakeparanvista@gmail.com) or

call (302) 463-6907





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# Conservation



## Funding for Weed Removal in Lake Paran



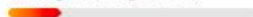
 [Camille Kauffman](#) started this petition


Lake Paran is a well-used and well-loved recreational resource in the Bennington area. Our public swimming area and dock get used by thousands of residents every year. These same residents have seen Lake Paran change through the years. What was once a relatively "weed free" lake has become dominated by aquatic vegetation that are both nuisance and invasive.

This dramatic shift in the character of the lake impacts not only the ecology of the lake system, but also the quality of the recreational experience for all of the boaters, swimmers, anglers, and birders that use the lake each year.

By signing this petition, we are asking municipal and state resources to allocate funding towards weed eradication in Lake Paran. We will ultimately hire a "Watershed Steward" who will further spearhead a water quality campaign around the Paran Watershed and move forward with the weed eradication permit process.

1 has signed. Let's get to 100!




 At 100 signatures, this petition is more likely to be featured in recommendations!



 Share on Facebook

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 Copy link



PO Box 393,  
North Bennington VT 05257  
(802) 442-8457

[www.LakeParanVT.org](http://www.LakeParanVT.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lakeparan](http://www.facebook.com/lakeparan)  
[lakeparanvista@gmail.com](mailto:lakeparanvista@gmail.com)

**Thank you!**

**Questions?**



# Fidium Fiber is your new connection.

**We've created an internet provider experience based on what customers actually want.**

Our 100% fiber network increases the speed and reliability of your internet. Our 100% commitment to customer service changes the game. **What's that mean for you?**

- Connect all your TVs, laptops, tablets, smartphones and smart home devices at consistently higher speeds, all at the same time
- With a dedicated connection, you don't have to share bandwidth with neighbors like you do with cable
- We don't "throttle" your speed during peak times of the day like other providers – count on the speed you need 24/7
- Symmetrical speeds means you get the same reliable upload AND download speeds
- Fiber is less prone to outages, so you'll enjoy more uptime to internet however you like
- You'll enjoy our straightforward pricing and easy-to-read bill — with Fidium, you always get what you pay for
- There's no contract to tie you down and no hidden fees to tie up your wallet



**Check availability for your ultra-fast fiber connection today at [FidiumFiber.com/Order](https://FidiumFiber.com/Order)**

**fidium**<sup>SM</sup>  
fiber internet

# Introducing our new 100% fiber network

**Fidium Fiber internet is now available with Gigabit speeds!**

**MOST POPULAR**

**1 Gig**  
**\$70/mo**

**FREE Installation**

**Supreme**

1 Gig = 1000 Mbps

A super-fast, reliable connection throughout your entire home

A better streaming TV experience – no buffering or delayed downloads

Meet the demands of work, school and play simultaneously

**250 Mbps**  
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(See reverse for more information.)

