



## Minutes of the 8/18/09 Meeting

The August meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at the VRPA offices in the Derby train station.

### Members Present

Ahearn, David (Derby)  
Ames, Scott (Oxford)  
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)  
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)  
Stahl, Mike (Derby)  
Udall, Kathy (Oxford)  
Udall, Mike (Oxford)

### Members Absent

Fiedler, Andy (Seymour)  
Steeves, Bill (Derby)

Also present was John Annino, LHAMP Supervisor; Patrick Kilby, LHAMP Officer; and Captain Raul Camejo from the DEP Division of Conservation Police.

The Treasurer, Mike Udall, called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

### **PUBLIC PORTION:**

No public present.

### **MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

The minutes for the July 2009 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the July 2009 minutes for approval with corrections:

Motion: Udall, K.                      Second: Behuniak.              Vote: Unanimous

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Treasurer, Mike Udall, read the August 2009 Treasurer's Report.

Cash receipts included Webster Bank interest, and receipt of payment from the City of Derby & the Town of Seymour for the 2009 season.

Disbursements included accounting, patrol payroll, patrol fuel & maintenance, payroll taxes, and water quality testing.

The treasurer noted that funding had been received from all member cities/towns at this time.

Motion to accept the reading of the August 2009 Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Behuniak                      Second: Ahearn, D.              Vote: Unanimous

**GUEST PRESENTATION:**

No presentation scheduled at this time.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**Patrol:**

John Annino reported that patrols have been running smoothly. Currently there are three more weekends scheduled and he asked the board if they should continue past Labor Day weekend. The board agreed that since there were funds left in the patrol budget that patrols could continue past Labor Day, weather permitting. Most likely only one boat would be needed and would be at the patrol Supervisors discretion as long as he stayed within budget.

The Chairman asked Mr. Annino to review the current policies and procedures to see if there was a policy on not carrying firearms. If not, it was requested he draft a revision to the policy to include such a provision.

Michael Bouchard, a past LHAMP officer and current police officer, expressed interest in joining the LHAMP. Mr. Bouchard knows the river, has experience as a marine patrol officer, and all agree would make a great addition to the patrol. Mr. Annino will contact Mr. Bouchard's Chief to make sure there is no conflict of interest with Mr. Bouchard serving two departments. The Board will consider hiring him this season.

**Water Quality:**

Scott Ames reported that the July test results were not available yet since the samples were taken at the end of the month. So it's not clear yet whether the elevated nitrogen levels were a one time anomaly due to flooding and run off or if levels were on the rise. Next months report should clarify.

**Weed Harvester:**

Paul Behuniak reported that harvester was running fine. The weeds are real bad so the harvester will be running as many hours as possible. It hasn't run much this season as the high water has made it difficult to reach the weeds. The weeds are lying down due to the excessive flow and coupled with elevated water level make it difficult to mow. As long as conditions permit the harvester will be out. Approximately 20hrs a week. Sandy Blanchard stated that he knew someone who was also interested in operating the harvester. The board agreed it would be good to have a second operator and asked Mr. Blanchard to coordinate with Mr. Behuniak.

**Vessels and Equipment:**

Paul Behuniak reported that the boats were in good shape. He replaced lines on one of the boats and that he needed to get the front light fixed on one of the boats as the socket fell through.

**SPECIAL COMMITTEES:**

**Regatta Committee**

Nothing to report at this time except a reminder about the NHRC regatta coming up in October and the request for patrol boats to be present.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Governor's Regional Round table (Executive Order #15)

Mike Stahl is continuing to attend these meetings.

DEP Communications and Logistics agreement.

Captain Camejo from the DEP was present to discuss the new DEP Communications and Logistics agreement. This agreement supersedes the existing agreement signed last year. The board raised concerns as the agreement was very vague and appeared to put all expense and liability on the LHA and essentially cut ties with the DEP. Captain Camejo explained that the DEP is facing difficult times due to cut backs and under staffing. The DEP commissioner is looking to cut expenses where ever possible. The decision was made to discontinue supporting the day to day activities of the LHA Marine patrol. The DEP will still provide training, the use of their Dispatch phone number and operator, as well as respond to serious accidents. The DEP will still be responsible for incidents that take place outside the normal LHA Marine Patrol schedule and will always be available to the LHAMP officers for backup. The LHA will be responsible for the cost of back ground checks as well as processing its own tickets, etc. The board agreed to review the agreement and return it to the commissioner with any corrections or changes requested. The Chairman thanked the Captain for taking the time to meet with us, and the Captain excused himself at 8:16PM.

LHAMP Communications

This issue is closed as Captain Camejo has offered the LHA to continue using the DEP emergency dispatch number and operator. He would communicate this to his people so there should be no issues going forward.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

LHA Website

The secretary reported that the free site used to host the LHA website would no longer be free. The existing site was a beta site offered by Microsoft at no charge. The secretary requested that he be allowed to transfer the website to a paid site and set-up a new and improved site. Approximate cost would be under \$200 a year. The board agreed with the proposal but a motion was tabled until exact costs are known.

DAM Licenses & Agreement

The Chairman presented copies of the Stevenson and Derby dam licenses as well as copy of the agreement between the two dams. The secretary will scan these documents and make them available to all board members prior to the next meeting.

NHRC Incident Report

Sandy Blanchard reported that an incident took place early on a Saturday morning between a NHRC rower and an unknown fisherman. The following is paraphrased from the rower's personal account of the incident. The rower was coming up stream on the right side staying as close to the shore line as possible. The fisherman was coming down stream on the left side and was headed directly for the rower. The fisherman's boat was not on plane and he could not see where he was going. The fisherman realized the rower was there at the last second and nearly ran her over. The fisherman's boat was described as a long, camouflaged, aluminum boat. The operator was described as being very obese. The rower believed he was a local. The NHRC realizes that there isn't too much that can be done after the fact, especially since the fisherman's identity is unknown but the purpose of reporting the incident was primarily to inform the board of what happened and

for clarification on how to handle an incident like this in the future. Mr. Annino said that without having an LHAMP officer witness the incident and not having the registration number for the boat that there wasn't much he could do at this time. He will inform his people of the incident and to be on the look out for the boat as described. In the future, Mr. Annino stated that if the boats registration number can be recorded that an incident report can be filed. All agreed that the incident could easily have turned into a tragedy. It's unfortunate that some individuals do not know the rules of the river and operate their vessels in an unsafe manner. Unfortunately there is not too much the board can do other than ask the LHAMP to be diligent to look for unsafe operation and to remind operators to run on the right side of the river.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

All correspondence received since July was made available for the Board to review.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

No report at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the August meeting.  
Motion: Behuniak                      Second: Blanchard.      Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames  
Secretary

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2009 AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.