



Minutes of the 7/21/09 Meeting

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

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Steeves, Bill (Derby)
Udall, Kathy (Oxford)
Udall, Mike (Oxford)

Members Absent

Ahearn, David (Derby)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Fiedler, Andy (Seymour)

Also present was John Annino, LHAMP Supervisor and Mike and Cami Misiewicz, Seymour residents.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Mike and Cami Misiewicz, residents from Seymour who live on the river, were present to discuss the water level. Mr. Misiewicz brought it to the attention of the board that the water level at his property has raised significantly in the last two to three years. This year being the highest yet. He noted that the water rose on his back wall at least 6" last year and now an additional 8" this year for a total of 14" in a year. He is concerned with the increased water flow and water height that it will erode his property and damage his water front. He is also concerned that he may end up with water inside his home when it floods which has never happened in past flooding. He noted that the water is shut down at night and is quickly brought up in the morning. He expressed concern that the Derby dam splash boards may be higher than usual and that the Stevenson dam was flowing excessive amounts of water and lowering the level of Lake Lillinonah.

Mike Stahl spoke on behalf of the board and assured Mr. Misiewicz that the LHA is concerned about the current water level and understands his issues. It was explained that the Derby Dam splash board height is verified by an independent engineer and that they must be kept at a height specified in their permit. In addition, the Derby Dam is temporarily down one of its two turbines and is processing half the water they usually do. Mr. Stahl explained that it is the board's opinion that the owners of the Stevenson Dam are manipulating the water levels of lakes further up stream so as to keep Lake Zoar high enough to run excessive water during peak power producing times. They can do this since they own all the dams up stream into Mass. The owner of the Derby Dam agrees with the LHA's opinion and is currently considering legal action against the owners of the Stevenson Dam. It was suggested to Mr. Misiewicz the best course of action is for the LHA board and all concerned residents to write to FERC to complain. Mr. Stahl will supply him with contact information at FERC as well as a copy of the Stevenson Dam permit.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

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

Motion to accept the June 2009 minutes for approval as presented:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Cash receipts included Webster Bank interest, proceeds from the sale of the old docks, and receipt of payment from the Town of Oxford for the 2009 season.

Disbursements included accounting, patrol payroll, patrol fuel & maintenance, patrol training, weed harvester fuel and maintenance, Insurance, water testing, and 1st ¼ payroll taxes.

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

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

GUEST PRESENTATION:

No presentation scheduled at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

John Annino reported that the season was progressing well. He submitted copies of the schedule for the season for the board to review. He did have an issue with officers following the proper chain of command and going directly to board members. In particular an incident where an officer used a patrol boat to recover a swamped boat. The officer claimed he had received permission from a board member. The board member denied giving permission and all agreed the decision use the boat was both a possible violation of policy and a potentially unsafe action.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that the Nitrogen levels were higher than expected last month. The testing was done shortly after minor flooding and it is believed the results are due to fertilizer runoff. The levels will be watched closely over the next couple of months to confirm.

Weed Harvester:

Paul Behuniak reported that quite a bit of work was performed on the Weed harvester including new hoses and a cutter bar. The harvester has not been able to effectively cut weeds due to the excessively high water. The high flow is knocking the weeds and combined with higher water levels the harvester can not reach the weeds so it has not been run much.

Vessels and Equipment:

Nothing to report at this time other than the harvester maintenance.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Regatta Committee
No report at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Governor's Regional Round table (Executive Order #15)
Mike Stahl is continuing to attend these meetings.

DEP Communications and Logistics agreement.
The Secretary reported that a representative from the DEP will be at the next meeting to discuss the agreement.

NEW BUSINESS:

LHAMP Communications
The board agreed that it was necessary to investigate either a cell phone or internet based voicemail that can be used by officers when supplying contact information to the public. For example, when filling out an accident report, etc.

CORRESPONDENCE

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

Mike Stahl commented that the fireworks went off with out a hitch and that they were the best display to date.

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the June meeting.
Motion: Behuniak Second: Udall, K. Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009 AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.