



Minutes of the 7/19/16 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)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Udall, Kathy (Oxford)
Udall, Mike (Oxford)

Members Absent

Manion, Tim (Shelton)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Chief Patrick Kilby and two members of the public, Paul Constantino and Gary Maynard.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Paul Constantino and Gary Maynard were both present to discuss the weed issue. Mr. Constantino said he understood the weeds are much worse than they ever have been due to the zebra mussels. But he was concerned that the weed harvester had not been run at all this season and just sits at the dock. The Chairman was quick to point out to Mr. Constantino that the weed harvester has been running. Currently the operator is putting in a full 40hr plus week when the harvester is operational. The Chairman pointed out that the harvester was operated during the daytime and perhaps that since Mr. Constantino worked during the day that is why he never personally saw it move. Mr. Constantino acknowledged that was probably the case. The Chairman did concede that the harvester was experiencing semi regular break downs due to its age and was cutting into the available hours the operator could run. The challenges being that the harvester is extremely slow and can take a couple hours just to drive up river. It fills to capacity in short order and must then make the couple hour trip back down river. So it is a very slow process and the one harvester cannot keep up even if it was operating at 100%, which it has not been. The board feels the weed issue has been exasperated by lack of water flow, no major floods in the last couple years, changing ecology, and of course the zebra mussels. The mussels have increased the clarity of the water so the sun is penetrating much deeper and weeds are growing faster and in areas they never grew before. Both Mr. Constantino and Mr. Maynard said they had a completely different perspective on the situation having discussed it with the board. They understand the LHA is doing the best they can with the equipment they have. When asked what can the public do, the Chairman suggested talking to their town leaders to raise awareness of the issue and to enforce the need to fully fund the LHA. Mr. Constantino and Mr. Maynard thanked the board for their time and excused themselves from the meeting. The board thanked them both for coming.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the June 2016 meeting were presented to the board for approval. A couple minor typographical corrections were requested.

Motion to accept the June 2016 minutes with corrections:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Mike Udall, read the July 2016 Treasurer's Report.

Cash disbursements included patrol payroll, patrol maintenance, and weed maintenance.
Cash receipts included CD interest and the Town of Seymour

Motion to accept the reading of the July 2016 Treasurer's Report:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

No presentation scheduled at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Kilby reported that all was going well with the patrol. The hand held radios borrowed from DEEP have not been very effective. The batteries are draining fast and they cannot be heard when under way. There was a radio issue that prevented dispatch from reaching the LHAMP by radio so the call was sent to the fire department. He reported that there were approximately 16 tickets issues and one BUI resulted in an arrest.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that water quality testing had resumed and the first results received were typical of past results. There is nothing in the test results that lend itself to the weeds and algae bloom.

Weed Harvester:

The weed harvester has been in service but has not been able to keep up with the weeds. It has been a losing battle just trying to keep a navigable lane open. The board agreed that a plan needs to be put into place for upgrading and/or replacing existing equipment as well as explore other technologies such as chemical, carp, etc. there have been further break downs including hydraulic hoses and cutter bar bushings.

Vessels and Equipment:

Both boats were operational. A new water pump was installed in one boat that failed during the night of the fireworks due to weeds.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

DEEP Memorandum of Agreement

Still no response from DEEP to date. Sandy Blanchard will draft a follow up letter to DEEP and will include a timeline.

Purchase of new radios

Chief Kilby reported that the radios were received last Tuesday but they are at the State Police and may take a couple weeks. The new radios will be capable of boat to boat communications.

Weeds

A long term solution will need to be investigated. There has been interest in the sterile Asian carp being tested at Candlewood. Substantial funding will be needed to either invest in additional equipment or for other remediation methods to be investigated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Session

Mike Stahl requested the board enter executive session to review an issue that concerned an LHA employee and was personal in nature. The board discussed and agreed.

The board entered executive session at 8:32PM

The board returned from executive session at 8:52PM

CORRESPONDENCE

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

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time

ADJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the July meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary - LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST, 16, 2016, AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.