



Minutes of the 6/21/16 Meeting

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

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Udall, Kathy (Oxford)
Udall, Mike (Oxford)

Members Absent

Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Manion, Tim (Shelton)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Also present were Edward Baclawski, LHAMP Asst. Chief and Patrick Kilby, LHAMP Chief.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the group in the pledge of allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the May 2016 meeting were presented to the board for approval. A minor typographical correction was requested.

Motion to accept the May 2016 minutes with corrections:

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

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Cash disbursements included accounting, patrol uniforms & equipment and patrol payroll.
Cash receipts included CD interest and an IRS payroll tax refund.

The Treasurer also noted that the Worker's Compensation insurance will expire as of August 1st, 2016. All paperwork has been supplied to the insurance agent and they have assured us that we will be renewed prior to the expiration.

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

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

GUEST PRESENTATION:

No presentation scheduled at this time.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Kilby reported that the patrol was off to a good start with no major issues. All five new officers have completed at least one shift each. Not all new boat handlers have completed a shift as of yet. The boat is running well and the only open issue is the boat to boat radio problem. The July schedule has been set and the Chief will email it to the board for review.

The Chairman reminded Chief Kilby that all time sheets should be sent to him first. He will review, and if approved, forward to the Treasurer and the accountant. Time sheets are not to be sent directly to the accountant.

The Chairman also commented that one boat needs to be dedicated to patrolling the state park as outlined in the letter of expectations that were handed out at the start of the season. In addition, there should not be more than two people per boat at any time. He also noted that if the boats require repair during the weekend they will have to wait to be serviced during the week. We can't keep having the mechanic called out on the weekend for a repair. Chief Kilby and Asst Chief Backlawski acknowledged they understood and would see to it that the rules were followed.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported the first water quality test of the season was taken last month but results had not been reviewed yet. This month's sample will be taken this Thursday the 23rd.

Weed Harvester:

The weed harvester went into service on Monday the 20th but was removed from service on the 21st due to a failed conveyor. One whole section of conveyor was unrepairable. Upon evaluation it was also found that the cutter bar and a hydraulic hose also needed replacement. Replacement parts as well as additional spare parts such as cutter bars and hydraulic fluid were put on order. As soon as the parts come in the harvester will be repaired and returned to service as soon as possible.

Vessels and Equipment:

Both boats were fully serviced. The boat with the temperature alarm issue was repaired and is in the water. The other is receiving further repairs including a new prop and repairing a leaky hull and would be in the water by July 1st.

The dump truck also received considerable repairs. However, when it was used last the PTO lever fell through the floor as it had completely rotted out. A new floor is in the process of being fabricated.

Two separate incidents of theft out of the LHA patrol boats occurred within the course of two weeks. The boats have been modified so that batteries and equipment are now under lock and key. Anything that can't be locked will be removed at the end of each shift.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

DEEP Memorandum of Agreement

Sandy Blanchard drafted a letter to DEEP. The Chairman and Secretary reviewed and approved the draft. The secretary mailed the letter the following week. Still no response from DEEP to date.

Purchase of new radios

Two new base mounted radios were ordered on May 20th for the boats (one for each boat) at a cost of approximately \$8,700. It is not known when they will arrive but the estimate was one month so they should arrive shortly. John Awalt will be scheduled to program and install the radios.

It is unclear if the new radios will be able to be used for boat to boat communications. The board agreed to wait until the radios arrived before making any decisions. In the meantime, alternative options would be reviewed.

First Light Grant

Notice was received via mail that the LHA was not selected for the grant.

NEW BUSINESS:

Weeds

The board has received numerous emails, calls, and face to face complaints concerning the weeds and how bad they are this season. The harvester is being repaired as noted previously and as soon as it is ready it will be put into service.

Unfortunately, even when operating at 100% capacity with a skilled operator, which the LHA has, it will be impossible to keep up with the weeds. At best, hopefully a navigation lane will be able to be kept open.

Environmental factors have been changing that have increased the growth of the weeds but most notably is the arrival of zebra mussels. The mussels have filtered the water so clear that the sun is now reaching down much farther than it ever has. Currently sunlight is penetrating over eight feet deep. Weeds are now growing where they never did before and are growing at depths beyond the reach of the harvester. The growth has started nearly two months earlier than typical.

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.

Executive Session

Mike Udall requested the board enter executive session to review correspondence that was received by mail that concerned an LHA employee and was personal in nature. The board discussed and agreed.

The board entered executive session at 8:35PM

The board returned from executive session at 8:49PM

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence received since May 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 June meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary - LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JULY, 19, 2016, AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.