



Minutes of the 11/30/2017 Meeting

The November meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at the New Haven Rowing Club (NHRC) on Roosevelt Drive in Oxford.

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Members Absent

Manion, Tim (Shelton)

Also present was: Lou & Phil Iannaccone, RiverView BBQ; Paul Jacobson, Shelton Resident; Joel Furtek, Yale Crew; Greg Bugbee & Abigail Wiegand, CT Agricultural Experiment Study; Ed Baclawski, LHAMP Chief; and Brian Brainard, LHAMP Asst. Chief.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. the Chairman introduced the newest member to the board, Jim Olson from Oxford.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Phil Iannaccone (RiverView BBQ operator) and Lou Iannaccone (RiverView Property owner) were present to discuss a proposed business venture they are considering at the site of the RiverView BBQ. The business concept is kayak, canoe, and paddle board rentals. No gas-powered vessels for rent. Possibly guided eco-tours of the lake or even SUP Yoga. A pontoon boat would be employed to transport paddlers or for tours. They are reaching out to the LHA prior to starting the process per the town of Seymour's suggestion, to see if there are any concerns from the board.

The Chairman stated that the LHA has no jurisdiction over any business activities nor has the expertise to help guide in those activities. It was suggested they contact DEEP to see what if any special permitting was needed. The LHA will of course enforce boating safety laws and would expect the business to comply with all safety and regulatory requirements. It was suggested that if a pontoon boat was used to transport customers than it is likely a captain's license may be necessary. The board is very supportive of the RiverView BBQ and would not be opposed to the proposed venture.

Phil & Lou Iannaccone thanked the board for their time and excuse themselves from the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Joel Furtek (Yale Crew) was present to submit a Marine Event Application for the 2018 Yale Regattas. Dates include Saturday March 24th, Sunday April 1st, Saturday April 7th, and Saturday April 28th. The application was typical of previous years and no issues were anticipated by the board. As such the Chairman approved the application as presented.

Joel thanked the board and remained to hear the guest presentation.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the October 2017 meeting was presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the October 2017 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Zitnay

Second: Behuniak

Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the November treasurer's report. Expenses included Patrol Payroll, patrol Fuel & Maintenance, Weed Control Payroll, Weed Control Fuel & Maintenance, Water Testing, Accounting, and the purchase of replacement patrol boats. All bills are up to date and financials are in good shape.

Motion to accept the November Treasurer's Report as presented:

Motion: Behuniak

Second: Blanchard

Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

Greg Bugbee and Abigail Wiegand presented the results of the weed survey. A copy of the complete weed study will be made available on the LHA web site when it is finalized. Therefore, the following is a brief summary of the presentation as it was quite lengthy and included many graphs and visuals. They stated 2005 was the last time Lake Housatonic was surveyed and it was funded by the Federal Government. Currently there is no funding available and as such the LHA had to pay for the survey. It was noted that nearly half the lakes in CT have filled in with sediment and Lake Housatonic is no exception. Over 60% of the lakes in CT have invasive species of weeds. Lake Housatonic had 17 species of weeds, three of which were invasive, in 2005. In 2017 there are now 21 species of weeds but still only 3 invasive species. However, the weeds are of course much more abundant. There is concern that there are a couple additional invasive species not currently in lake Housatonic that are located just up river from us. The one of most concern is the Water Chestnut. It is only a matter of time before it finds its way down stream. There was some discussion about why the weeds were so bad and there was no one definitive answer. However, graphs and data from 2005 to 2017 certainly showed it clearly. The maps show what species the weeds are, the quantity, and location of the weeds. There was some discussion of methods of remediation. Although Grass Carp, mechanical weed harvesters, barriers, etc., are all partially effective. The only economical large-scale method that is effective is the use of chemistry. Types of chemistry and vendors were discussed. It was suggested the LHA work with Lake Zoar to coordinate efforts.

Jim Olson volunteered to contact potential vendors and to begin coordinating efforts with the Lake Zoar Authority.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Baclawski reported he hadn't received any applicants and asked permission to put out a paid ad. Permission was approved by the board to use any free advertising and to spend up to \$100 for a paid ad. He is looking to get 6 officers and needs to be ready by March 1st for training.

Water Quality:

No report at this time. Sampling is complete for the year.

Weed Harvester:

The harvester has been pulled out of the water.

Vessels and Equipment:

The boats have been sold and have been paid for and already picked up.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee presented the proposed slate of officers for 2018.

Stahl, Mike (Chairman)

Behuniak, Paul (Vice-Chairman)

Blanchard, Sandy (Treasurer)

Ames, Scott (Secretary)

The Chairman accepted the proposed slate. Voting would take place in January.

OLD BUSINESS:

New Patrol Boat

A 10% deposit has been placed. An additional payment totally 50% would be the last week of December and final payment upon delivery of the boats in the Spring. The boats totaled \$45,00 for the set.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence received since October 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 November meeting.

Motion: Behuniak Second: Zitnay Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary - LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2018, AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.