



Minutes of the 1/16/2018 Meeting

The January 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)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Members Absent

Manion, Tim (Shelton)

Also present was: Paul Jacobson, Shelton Resident; Dominic Meringolo, Solitude Lake Management; Ed Baclawski, LHAMP Chief; and Brian Brainard, LHAMP Asst. Chief.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC PORTION:

None at this time

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the November 2017 meeting minutes was presented to the board for approval. A typographical error was noted in the attendance.

Motion to accept the November 2017 meeting minutes with correction:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the 2018 Budget to the board for review. The total budget was a slight reduction from 2017. Reductions came from reduced patrol payroll, fuel & maintenance, and weed harvester repair based on actual 2017 spend verse budget. Any reserves that resulted from this are being applied to weed abatement for 2018. There was an estimate of \$35,00 added to the 2018 budget for chemical weed abatement but it was offset from the capital expense of the boats in 2017.

Motion to accept the 2018 Budget as presented:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

Dominic Meringolo from Solitude Lake Management presented two quotes for chemical weed abatement to the board for review. The first was for DEEP permitting and the second was for the actual treatment.

The DEEP permit quote was for \$1,000. This is to prepare and file the state pesticide use permit with DEEP. It includes filing any notices or yearend reports as required by the permit. Only DEEP approval is required but local town's inland wetlands are informed and they can comment. This process could take weeks up to several months so it's critical it start as soon as possible.

The treatment quote was an estimate based on the weed survey maps provided as was estimated at \$32,000. This is for a single application of Diquat, applied in June, covering 127 acres per the map. This includes pre and post inspection, yearend report, and regulatory compliance reporting. The LHA will be responsible for posting notices (supplied by Solitude) and placing a newspaper ad per the permit.

It is not necessary to notify the public in advance or seek their approval, but it is advised. The only requirement is to notify public when it will be applied. The LHA board agreed that it is important to notify and involve the public up front so that any questions or concerns could be addressed. Water flow needs to be stopped for a minimum of 2hrs, preferably 8 hrs. Ideally this would be coordinated with the same day Lake Zoar does their treatment. The chemistry does not penetrate the soil, it kills weeds on contact only so it does not kill the roots. It is non-toxic to humans, animals, and fish. It was stressed that the chemistry would not be harmful to dogs.

The Chairman asked Mr. Jacobson's opinion as a subject matter expert. He agreed that the only practical solution is chemical treatment and what has been proposed made sense to him. He did however suggest that chemical treatment and mechanical harvesting is just a band aide and we need to improve the water quality to be able to solve the issue long term.

The Chairman asked for a motion to sign the 1st contract to get the permitting process started.

Motion to accept and sign the permitting process contract for \$1,000 to Solitude

Motion: Behuniak Second: Zitnay Vote: Unanimous

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Baclawski reported that Indeed worked out well for getting applications. He received 10 qualified applicants for officers and one boat handler. Interviews would take place this Sunday the 21st at 12:00PM at the New Haven Rowing Club. Interviews would be scheduled every 15 minutes.

Water Quality:

No report at this time. Updated quote has been received. Sampling will resume in May.

Weed Harvester:

No report at this time.

Vessels and Equipment:

No report at this time (see old business for new boats)

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Nominating Committee

The Chairman asked for a motion to accept the slate of officers for 2018 as proposed by the nominating committee:

- Stahl, Mike (Chairman)
- Behuniak, Paul (Vice-Chairman)
- Blanchard, Sandy (Treasurer)
- Ames, Scott (Secretary)

Motion to accept the slate of officers as presented:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

OLD BUSINESS:

New Patrol Boats

Boats are on order. A 10% deposit has been placed and the remainder will be due in full when the boats arrive in late January, early February. The boats totaled \$45,00 for the set.

NEW BUSINESS:

Re-appointment of Scott Ames

Scott Ames notified the board that his commission had expired and the town of Oxford sent him a letter asking the board to approve his re-appointment. The Commissioner approved the re-appointment and authorized notifying the Town of Oxford of the decision.

CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence received since November 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 January meeting.

Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary - LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2018, AT THE VRPA OFFICES IN THE DERBY RR STATION AT 7:30 P.M.