



Minutes of the 9/21/2021 Meeting

The September meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held as an online Zoom meeting.

Members Present

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

Members Absent

Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Assistant Chief, Kevin Dunn and LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

None Present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the August 2021 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the August 2021 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the September 2021 treasurer's report. The treasurer commented that all four towns paid the full budgeted amount. Notable debits included weed abatement and worker's compensation insurance. Notable credits included the sale of the weed harvester which was applied to the weed abatement debit. Vessel insurance would be coming up due later in the year. All finances are in order and all bills current.

Motion to accept the September 2021 Treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Olson Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

The LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard, reported that it was difficult getting coverage for the fireworks since it was postponed beyond the end of the normal season. For the season, there were a total of 30 tickets written, 7 written warnings, and numerous verbal warnings. Other than some staffing availability issues the season went pretty well.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that the August test results were typical. The September sample will be taken next week.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that the treatment for Milfoil went well. Unfortunately, the Tape grass treatment was not as effective. Overall, he felt the treatment went well and he has confidence that the LHA is progressing in the right direction. The treatment will continue to be refined and improved on each year. A survey noting weed type and quantity will be performed by the weed abatement contractor in the coming weeks and will help make decisions for next year.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chairman reported the docks at the gas station were damaged and the patrol had to beach their vessels or go by car for gas. Otherwise, vessels were in order and would be soon winterized.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business

NEW BUSINESS:

LHA Email

The secretary, Scott Ames, noted that the email that was included free with the website would now cost \$30 annually. He requested permission for the annual expenditure.

Motion to approve \$30 per year for LHA email:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

Water Flow

Jim Olson led a discussion amongst the board members about excessive water flow (flooding) and lack of communication. Several board members gave their opinions. It was apparent that there were varying degrees of communication from the four towns. Scott Ames felt Oxford did a great job both through the town's Code Red system and by direct contact from the fire department. This level of communication wasn't coming from the other cities/towns. All agreed that First light was not providing any communication to the LHA or residents directly but relying on the towns. This is all that they are required to do but as good neighbors it was felt they should be doing more.

Debris Management

Jim Olson also led a discussion with the board on debris management. Although First light was doing the minimum required by their FERC license. It was felt that as stewards of the river they should be doing more. It was apparent that significant amounts of debris were pushed over the dam. Large trees, skids, telephone poles, etc. These items couldn't have found their way over the trash gate on their own. And the debris came down in large groups. This debris endangered people and property. There were reports of damage to boats and docks. Jim Olson read a draft letter written to

First light on the issue and asked the board for their input and ultimately approval to send it to First light. The Chairman asked Mr. Olson to email the draft letter to the board for more careful review and then a decision to send it could be made. Mr. Olson agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since August was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the September meeting at 8:28PM.

Motion: Blanchard

Second: Olson

Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary – LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2021, VIA ZOOM MEETING.