



Minutes of the 7/19/2022 Meeting

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

Members Present

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

Members Absent

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

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

None Present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the June 2022 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the June 2022 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order. Expenses included insurance and patrol payroll. There is an open invoice from the pesticide contractor Solitude that is approved and will be paid in a week or two. All towns/cities except Derby have paid their annual portion of the budget. There is no anticipated issue with Derby and payment is expected soon based on previous year's timelines.

Motion to accept the July 2022 Treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brainard reported that both the new officer and boat handler were working out great. However, staffing has been difficult, particularly with officers more so than boat handlers. Two

officers were unavailable for much of July due to military commitments. This combined with a minimal staff to begin with has made filling all shifts very difficult. The Chief highly recommends higher more officers than needed so there is adequate coverage. If we think we need 6, hire at least 8. There is coverage for the fireworks on July 30th and two boats will be on the water all day. The Chief commented on two significant issues both involving jet skis. One incident was a jet ski entering the swim area at Indian Well State Park resulting in lifeguards evacuating the swim area. Lifeguards contacted DEEP who contacted the LHAMP. An officer quickly responded and addressed the situation resulting in a reckless driving ticket being issued. Feedback on social media praised the LHAMP for their quick and effective actions. The second incident involved a jet ski operating recklessly and putting the public at risk. The same operator had been given a warning just 20 minutes prior to the incident. LHAMP responded and attempted to stop the jet ski but the operator refused to stop and fled from the patrol boat. A DEEP officer was dispatched to the operator's home but did not come to the door. A ticket has been mailed for reckless driving as well as evading.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported the results from the second sample were received and were as expected. Indian Well State Park is currently closed most likely due to the runoff from the heavy rain the prior day. The next sample will be taken next week. Several more crabs have been found and have been positively identified as Japanese Mitten crabs and are an invasive species.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that he took part in a 90-minute survey of the lake with the pesticide contractor Solitude prior to the treatment. Both the contractor and Jim agreed that the lake was in far better condition than it has been in several years. The board all agreed. The treatment was completed without issue and believed to be very successful but only time will tell. The second treatment targeting tape grass has been canceled due to the current condition of the lake not requiring further treatment. This is to ensure a delicate balance is maintained between eliminating invasive weeds and maintaining a healthy amount of native vegetation to support a good lake ecosystem. There is still one more year left on the current permit.

Vessels and Equipment:

Dave Zitnay reported that the black boat fuel gauge being stuck was an issue with the sending unit itself. Unfortunately, it is not readily available while in the water. It will not be able to be addressed until after the boat comes out of the water. The issue with the blue boat's boat to boat radio not operating as well as the siren not functioning were due to blown fuses.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Head of the Housatonic Regatta

Sandy Blanchard made note that the annual Head of the Housatonic Regatta to be held on October 8th this year has grown to be one of the largest in the country attracting competitors and spectators from all over. This year the Chinese national team is coming to compete. This is a huge development and says a lot about the regatta. The board all agreed and thought this was very significant and great for both the lake and the rowing club. All agreed it should be advertised and celebrated. It was

suggested that Chief Brainard contact DEEP about the possibility of getting a DEEP patrol boat and DEEP officer on the water the day of the event to support the Lake Patrol.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since June was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the June meeting at 8:18PM.

Motion: Behuniak Second: Zitnay 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, AUGUST 16, 2022, VIA ZOOM MEETING.