



Minutes of the 7/18/2023 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)
Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Members Absent

Evans, Chris (Shelton)

Also present was LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard. And Jerry Sudimick and Paul Constantino from the public.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

Paul Constantino addressed the board on his concerns with the introduction of wake boats to the lake. These are specialty boats designed specifically for creating a large wake for surfing behind. They tend to be physically larger, have bladders to increase weight, and seat quite a few people. His concern is the wake that these boats generate can be very hazardous and destructive to property. He feels that most of the operators of these boats are not knowingly doing anything wrong, they just aren't aware of the damage their wake can do. The board and Chief all agreed with Mr. Constantino's concerns. And all agreed that the first course of action is to educate the operators so they are aware. And this education should expand to all boats of all types as there is a potential for any boat to create a hazardous or damaging wake. Particularly during flood stage. The Chief will review with the lake patrol officers and begin a campaign of education first. First time offenders will receive a verbal warning and more importantly educated. Repeat offenders can be subject to a written ticket with a potential fine. These tickets would fall under reckless operation, either the first degree or second degree, depending on if there was damage or not. But emphasis will be on education. Mr. Constantino was happy with the board's plan and thanked them for their time.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the June 2023 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the June 2023 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Behuniak

Second: Olson

Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order. Expenses included patrol payroll, training, and fuel as well as water testing and clerical. The only income was interest.

Motion to accept the July 2023 Treasurer's report as presented:
Motion: Fiedler Second: Olson Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brainard reported that there was an incident where someone on a jet ski passed at high speed closely to a patrol boat that was in the middle of a stop with its lights on. The person then came very close to the swimming area where kids were swimming. The jet ski was stopped by patrol. The operator had a temporary out of state license and a temporary registration. The operator was informed of the violations at which time she became belligerent and was swearing at the officer. There was information missing from the temporary license and the operator refused to show identification. The operator continued to berate the officer and threatened to have the officer lose his job if he wrote her a ticket. She demanded her documents back and left without the ticket. The officer remained calm and respectful throughout the contact. The Chief felt the officer did the right thing based on the operators' actions. The DEEP sergeant said that there was enough information to obtain the missing information so that tickets could be issued. They will be mailed to her.

The incident above sparked a discussion on if there should perhaps be camera on board the patrol boats. Had the operator filed a complaint against the officer it would be beneficial to have video evidence. The board suggested that the Chief review if cameras would be approved for use and if so to do some research on them. A decision to purchase will be tabled until its researched.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that the June test results were received and were as expected. The July test will be taken later in the month. With the recent flooding there may be a non-typical result for July.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that the treatment was completed. Only Milfoil and Curly Leaf were treated. DEEP limits the number of weeds that can be treated so they could not treat them all. Although it didn't go as planned, he felt it was still a successful application. He stated that First Light had committed to holding the water flow. However, they had the water flowing in the morning when treatment was to take place and only stopped flow for a short period. Water was flowing again after only a couple hours after treatment reducing the contact time. Although reduced contact time, he felt there was sufficient time. First Light did not work with the LHA at all. The second treatment is tentatively scheduled for August 8th depending on water flow.

Vessels and Equipment:

Mike Stahl reported that he had gotten quotes for replacement tops for both patrol boats. The tops were in bad shape since they were reused for the older boats. The board agreed that the tops should be replaced.

The blue patrol boat has an intermittent problem where it doesn't want to start. Possibly a safety switch. Will need to be troubleshoot.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since June was presented to the board. A notice was received relating to the buoys that will be put in place by Aquarian for the water well testing.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the July meeting at 7:21PM.

Motion: Behuniak 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, AUGUST 15, 2023, VIA ZOOM MEETING.