



## Minutes of the 3/21/2023 Meeting

March 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)  
Olson, Jim (Oxford)  
Stahl, Mike (Derby)  
Zitnay, David (Derby)

### Members Absent

Fiedler, Andy (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard. Mark Schofield and Dave Thomas, both representatives of the NHRC.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:46PM

### PUBLIC PORTION:

Mark Schofield and Dave Thomas from the New Haven Rowing Club were present to discuss their recent marine event permit applications and answer any questions the board had. The applications were for events that have been successfully run in the past years without issue. The new form from DEEP however is not user friendly. The board had feedback for the NHRC on what they would like to see added to the applications to more accurately cover the requirements of the events. Including mention of a travel lane for through traffic, not holding the events during flood stage, and the need for cold water rescue for the Fall event. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Schofield agreed with the comments and would request DEEP amend the applications to include them. The board thanked the NHRC representatives for attending the meeting as well as being receptive to the edits. The board was confident the applications would be approved with the suggested edits. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Schofield thanked the board for their time and excused themselves from the meeting.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the January and February 2023 meetings were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the January and February 2023 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Olson                      Second: Behuniak                      Vote: Unanimous

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that there has been minimal activity. The marine patrol boat motors had been fully paid for. Donations have been received from both the New Haven Rowing Club and Yale for the weed treatment program.

Motion to accept the March 2023 Treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Behuniak                      Second: Zitnay                      Vote: Unanimous

### GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brainard reported that the marine patrol officer interviews were completed and that conditional offers were made to five applicants. In addition to the five new hires, one boat handler was also moving up to patrol officer for a total of six new officers. One former officer will not be returning. So total number of officers is expected to be 11. Training has already started and is nearly half complete. Approximately three more classes to go plus a defensive tactics class and a swim test. Fingerprints have been collected but need to be entered into the system. And CPR training still needs to be completed. Chief Brainard noted this may be the last year that DEEP offers the program themselves and may switch to a third party for training. He also noted that marine patrol officers were no longer permitted to carry firearms. The LHAMP officers do not carry firearms so it is not a concern for the LHA but may be for other authorities. It's been reported that Candlewood Lake Authority lost a significant number of officers. He asked the board to consider market adjustments to the pay rates. The board agreed an adjustment was most likely in order but tabled the discussion for a later date.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that an updated quote was received and was as expected. Testing will resume in May.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that he is working with the weed abatement contractor Solitude to formalize the plan for 2023 and to lock in treatment dates. The Milfoil plan has been successful. The season started with less Milfoil and the treatment kept it well under control. However, Eel grass has gotten worse. Although it can be treated with the same herbicide it is not an invasive species so care must be taken to strike a balance. So a plan needs to be developed to reduce the nuisance of Eel grass and still maintain a healthy amount. Another issue is the outbreak of Pond weed that sprung up last year. Although an invasive species, the current herbicide is not effective. It is most abundant in the Upper Birchbank area, aka Wholand, near the Indian Head Rock. Last year it really choked up the shore line. A plan will have to be figure out for the Pond weed but the current permit may not allow for treatment. There will be two treatment dates. One mid-July and the second early August. Both during mid-week, Tuesday or Wednesday. The Chairman reached out to the Derby Rec to try to coordinate with them for minimal impact since the yare closed a couple days in July.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chairman reported that the new motors were installed. But they didn't come with props so they will need to be purchased. It was suggested that hour meters be added to the boats. This will be considered while still at the shop. The black boat needs the fuel gauge fixed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since January was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the March meeting at 7:52PM.

Motion: Zitnay

Second: Behuniak

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, APRIL 18, 2023, VIA ZOOM MEETING.