



## **Minutes of the 8/20/2024 Meeting**

The August 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.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:35PM

### PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present.

### MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the July 2024 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the July 2024 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Zitnay                      Second: Fiedler                      Vote: Unanimous

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the August 2024 report. Checks were received from Derby (\$15,185.00), Oxford (\$15,185.00), and Shelton (\$50,616.00) for the full amount of funding requested. The Seymour check has not been received. They said they would be sending it, but for approximately a \$1,000 less than what was requested. A donation from Yale (\$5,000.00) was also received. Significant expenses included the weed abatement invoice as well as expenses for Patrol payroll. The next significant expense expected is the year end weed survey, typically around \$6,000.

Motion to accept the August 2024 Treasurer's report as presented.

Motion: Zitnay                      Second: Behuniak                      Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brian Brainard reported that posting an officer at the Indian Well Park boat ramp dock has made a significant impact and is helping. He will continue to staff the boat ramp for the remainder of the season. Both laser speed guns have been used and resulted in three speeding tickets being issued. One was for 55MPH and the other two were in the 60 plus MPH range. A few officers/handlers have been lost since the start of the season. It has been challenging to get people that are willing to give up their weekends and holidays during the summer months. There was some discussion on possibly offering a year end incentive bonus to help get shifts filled and retain officers. The plan for the 2025 season is to staff 20 officers to help cover shifts and to mitigate any losses.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that the July test results were received but not reviewed yet. The August test will take place next week and will likely be affected by the flooding.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported the treatment went well overall. There was an issue with some granulated chemistry getting on docks from the spreader. This was addressed with the contractor and assurances were made it wouldn't happen again. There is still an issue in front of Wholand. It is a native pond weed so a modification to the permit will be needed in order to treat it. Being a native weed it may be difficult to get but it is hoped the end of year survey will support it.

Vessels and Equipment:

The hand-held radios were received and work well. One of the boat trailers has a broken bunk. The boat dock was damaged in the flood but is repairable. The blue boat white stern light is starting to fail. Several of the LEDs are out and its dim. Both boats have broken gas gauges. The sending units are difficult to access due to the built-in gas tanks. It may be necessary to bring to a shop to repair them. The patrol boats are now pulled straight in rather than swinging in so there is no longer an issue with prop damage.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Speed Limit Buoy

There was discussion on purchasing floating speed limit signs to help enforce the speed limit. Mike Stahl volunteered to research it and get a quote.

Vessel Safety Check Program

There was discussion on implementing a program to do voluntary vessel safety checks and issue a sticker. Boats displaying the sticker would not be pulled over for random checks. This would reduce checking the same boat multiple times. Scott Ames volunteered to follow up on the program.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was significant discussion on the massive debris field at the Stevenson Dam that was caused by the flooding that occurred August 18<sup>th</sup>. The concern being that FirstLight would push the debris over the dam and could cause property damage or personal injury. Calls were made to State Representative Nicole Klarides-Ditra and to Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments (NVCOG) Executive Director Rick Dunne. The feedback from Rick Dunne was that FERC will send inspectors to the Stevenson Dam to inspect and photograph the debris field. It is expected they will not permit pushing the trash over the dam. Feedback from Representative Klarides-Ditra was that FirstLight said they will come up with a plan to get out the man-made debris and the large natural debris. Smaller natural debris would be allowed to pass. It was agreed by all that ultimately there would be debris coming over the dam. The LHA should post a notice warning the residents of the inevitable debris and the hazard it may cause. The suggestion is to remove boats for at least a week. The LHA will officially ask FERC to intervene as well as give formal notice to FirstLight not to push debris over the dam until FERC has had an opportunity to evaluate.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since July was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

The Chairman noted that the Derby Dam boards had significant damage. It's estimated that of the 650 feet of boards there is now less than 100 feet left. It is likely they will need to do another drawdown and fix the boards sometime soon.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the August meeting at 7:31 PM.

Motion: Olson                      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, SEPTEMBER 17, 2024, VIA ZOOM MEETING.