



Minutes of the 1/16/2024 Meeting

The January 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)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Members Absent

Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)

Also present was LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard and Officer Alex Commander.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:34PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

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

Motion to accept the November 2023 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Fiedler Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, had previously submitted the December 2023 monthly report as well as a draft of the 2024 proposed budget via email so the board could review prior to the meeting. There was some discussion on the proposed budget. A review of the 2023 budget showed that it was very close to the actual for 2023. Minor adjustments were made to the 2024 budget to get it even closer. Areas that needed to be addressed were patrol payroll and weed control. Those adjustments were made and the Treasurer and the full board were in agreement. The Chairman thanked the treasurer for his hard work.

Motion to accept the December 2023 Treasurer's report as presented and to accept the proposed 2024 budget with adjustments as discussed.

Motion: Zitnay Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brainard introduced Alex Commander as the new LHAMP Assistant Chief. The board congratulated the Assistant Chief and welcomed him on board. The Chief anticipates that 8 officers and 3 boat handlers will be returning this year. He felt that there was a need to hire at least 3 or 4 more officers and possibly one boat handler. There are currently 5 potential candidates for the officer position. Interviews will take place at NHRC on January 28th at 9:00AM. He also commented that DEEP was changing its academy and may stop offering the defensive tactics. This would mean the LHA would have to hire and pay for its own defensive tactics training.

The secretary asked for a motion to rehire the Chief and Assistant Chief for the 2024 season so they could begin work on hiring and training the new officers.

Dave Zitnay made a motion to hire Brian Brainard as LHAMP Chief and Alex Commander as LHAMP Assistant Chief

Motion: Behuniak Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that a request was made for an updated quote for the water testing for 2024.

Weed abatement:

No report at this time

Vessels and Equipment:

Dave Zitnay reported that the one boat still needs an ignition switch and both boats need hour meters installed. He said that it would be done in the spring when they get uncovered. The agreement with DEEP for the hand-held radio usage has been submitted to DEEP. The LHA shed now has power and lights.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Credit card for LHA expenses

It was proposed at the last meeting that it may be beneficial getting a credit card for LHA expenses rather than having board members pay out of pocket and then get reimbursed. The treasurer did a good job researching options. Unfortunately securing a card would require a board member to underwrite it. Although the Treasurer was willing to do so, the board felt it was not a good idea to have anyone personally liable for the card. Therefore, acquiring a credit card has been tabled indefinitely. The board all thanked the Treasurer for his efforts and willingness to take on the responsibility.

NEW BUSINESS:

Slate of Officers for 2024

The Chairman recognized the 2023 officers and thanked them for their help. He then asked if anyone else would like the opportunity to fill the positions. The board all felt that the officers should stay the same for this year. As such, the Chairman proposed the following slate of officers:

Stahl, Mike (Derby)	Chairman
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)	Vice-Chairman
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)	Treasurer
Ames, Scott (Oxford)	Secretary

Motion to accept the 2024 slate of officers as presented.

Motion: Fiedler Second: Zitnay Vote: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since November was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the January meeting at 7:12PM.

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, FEBRUARY 20, 2024, VIA ZOOM MEETING.