



Minutes of the 5/16/2024 Meeting

The May 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 Assistant Chief Alex Commander.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:36PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

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

Motion to accept the April 2024 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Blanchard Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the May 2024 report. There was no significant income or expenses since the last report. There was minimal income from interest. All finances are in order and the LHA is in good shape assuming the town's fully fund the budget.

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

Motion: Zitnay Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Assistant Chief Alex Commander reported that the uniforms have been received. The radar gun is currently out for calibration. Our DEEP Sergeant has approved the LHAMP to do voluntary safety checks on land at the state park boat launch. Any violations would need to be delt with once on the water. DEEP hasn't appointed any of the officers yet as the memorandum of agreement between DEEP and the LHA was not completed and approved yet. It was determined that the use of body or vessel mounted cameras is allowed and that there is no obligation to retain the data for any length of time. So, it can be erased whenever we want. There will be one boat out each day on Saturday and Sunday and two boats out on Monday for Memorial Day. Asst. Chief Commander requested a \$2 raise from \$10 to \$20/hr for Officer Michael Simons as he was promoted from boat handler to officer.

Motion to increase Officer Michael Simons from \$18 to \$20/hr:

Motion: Blanchard

Second: Evans

Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that testing will begin next week.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that the permit process was still underway, but he expected no issues. This will be a 3-year permit. There will be two applications, the first tentatively July 16th and the second tentatively August 6th. Subject to change. There will be a total of four chemistries this year due to the new hybrid species that has emerged.

Vessels and Equipment:

Dave Zitnay reported that an ignition switch was on order for the blue boat and would be installed shortly after receiving it. The docks need o go into the water by Saturday. If there is an issue getting them in prior to Saturday, the boats will be launched and then put back on the trailer at the end of the day. Mike Stahl noted one whip was damaged. There is a spare one, but he will also order a new set to have on hand. Sandy Blanchard will order the portable toilet.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Marine Patrol Liability Insurance

Sandy Blanchard reported that he had successfully secured all necessary insurance. The new provider is CIRMA. CIRMA only insures municipal and law enforcement agencies. They currently insure Lake Zoar. The coverage has increased and expanded to cover both law enforcement and public officials. This would extend coverage to the LHA board. And yet the cost of the coverage has decreased. Mr. Blanchard reflected on how much the LHA has grown and matured into a professional organization. It is this growth and the many improvements that were made that allowed the LHA to obtain the coverage. The board all agreed and thanks Mr. Blanchard for his hard work and being instrumental in securing the coverage in time to start the season.

DEEP Memorandum of Agreement

DEEP submitted a draft copy of the MOA. It was reviewed by the board prior to the meeting and there were a few comments. Nothing significant to prevent it from being approved. The Chief Brian Brainard has collected the comments and is in contact with DEEP so that the MOA can be finalized and signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Water Draw Down

The Derby dam is tentatively planning a water draw down from June 16th through the 20th. Rain date would be the following week starting on the 23rd. This is tentative and needs to be confirmed yet.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since April was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the May meeting at 7:09 PM.

Motion: Behuniak

Second: Blanchard

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, JUNE 18, 2024, VIA ZOOM MEETING.