



Minutes of the 10/21/2025 Meeting

The October meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at Derby City Hall.

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Fitzgerald, Alegra (Shelton)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)

Members Absent

Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Gildea, Jim (Derby)

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:32PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the September 2025 meeting were previously presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the September 2025 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Blanchard Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order. He reported that the weed abatement budget line was higher than what was needed for the season. This is due to the success of the program requiring less treatment than initially estimated. He noted that there is one open invoice for the weed survey. The patrol budget line needed adjustment due to increased pay rate and increased hours.

Motion to accept the October 2025 treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

No report at this time.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported the test results have all been typical to previous years. The last sample for the season will be taken at the end of the month.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reiterated the significant reduction in the treatment area due to the success of the program. Originally over 150 acres were being treated and now that is less than 40 acres. The bulk of the treatment is aimed at Milfoil, which is an invasive species and has been very successful. He has high confidence we can continue to manage the Milfoil weeds. However, there are spot issues with Eel grass which is a native species. Eel grass requires a different chemistry, and we are very limited in treating it since it is native. DEEP has denied the LHA's request to use carp so alternative chemistries will be explored. It is hoped the weed survey will help justify increasing the amount of eel grass that can be treated. He will continue to explore the possibility of renting a mechanical harvester for spot treatment but that is not a good solution. Next season he anticipates treating Milfoil during the first treatment in July and then treating Eel grass and Milfoil during the second treatment in August.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chief reported that the patrol boats were out of the water, and they were scheduled to be wrapped next weekend. The patrol boats started the season with a little under 400 hours on each of them. The suggestion is to get at least one more season out of them and then consider replacing them. Paul Behuniak will get quotes on new boats and motors as well as an estimate on resale value of current boats. A call was made to have the porta potty removed. The gas bills are all closed out.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Budget Committee

The Chairman announced the formation of the budget committee for next season and asked the Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, to head the committee. Sandy agreed and accepted the role. It was decided that no other members would be formally assigned to the committee as the budget is very mature and doesn't require the resources, but all members would be available to assist as needed and were free to give input.

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Safety Grant

Alegra Fitzgerald had previously sent the board information on safety throw ring stations that were implemented in Florida. Some of which were rather sophisticated and would alert 911 as well as provided GPS tracking. Although the more sophisticated devices may not be within the LHA's means initially, all agreed a simpler version to start would be a great idea. All were encouraged to research the program. Alegra will try to get the supplier information for the program she shared.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since September was presented to the board. Of note was a thank you letter from the LHA insurance provider as well as notification from the City of Shelton on expectations for next year's meeting schedule.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the October meeting at 7:00 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, NOVEMBER 18, 2025.