



Minutes of the 9/16/2025 Meeting

The September meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at the Derby City Hall, and was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Vice Chair Paul Behuniak

Commissioners Present

Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Fitzgerald, Allegra (Shelton)
Gildea, Jim (Derby)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)

Commissioners Absent

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Chief Brian Brainard

PUBLIC PORTION

- No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL

- The minutes of the August 2025 meeting had previously distributed. Motion to accept and unanimous approval.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- Principal expenses during August were for Patrol payroll, Solitude Lake Management for weed treatments, and the annual Audit.
- The Audit confirmed that all books are in order and with no outstanding issues. The Auditor noted that the Monthly Report does not correctly reflect certain payroll related expenses due to a cash/accrual accounting conflict; a revised Report is being developed.
- Motion to accept and unanimous approval.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Patrol

- Regularly scheduled patrol activities have been concluded for the season.
- Patrol will have two launch and crews on the water for the October 11-12 rowing regatta.
- Planning for new recruits will begin soon so advertisements can be placed
- Staging an officer at IWSP was helpful this year to control unlicensed boat access, provide safety briefings and ensure that boats displayed all DEEP stickers.
- Generally good season with cooperative boaters with the notable exception of jet skis which are difficult to manage with our limited staff
- Suggestion made for weekly compensation to reduce payroll turnaround time.

- Both launches and their motors are showing their age; replacement is under consideration.

Water Quality

- No report

Weed Abatement

- Two herbicide treatments for the season are now completed.
- Invasive milfoil has been substantially reduced and is no longer a significant problem
- Native eelgrass is taking over the lake in areas no longer dominated by milfoil. As a native species, LHA is severely limited by DEEP in the extent of allowable treatment, and the available herbicides are only marginally effective. Natural process is for the eelgrass to dominate in the fall, and it is easily broken loose and collects in large “rafts” as it floats away.
- Low rain falls, low river flow rates and sunny days have exacerbated the growth of eelgrass and filamentous algae this fall.
- Annual survey by CAES is instrumental in determining the extent and location of weed growth, and is a critical component of our DEEP permit applications.

GUEST PRESENTATION

- No guest presentation

ADJOURNMENT

- Vice Chair Brhuniak adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

THE NEXT MONTHLY LHA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 6:30 P.M.,
DERBY CITY HALL.