

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft

Minutes of the

May 13, 2017 at 9:00 AM

At

Shutesbury Town Hall

Members Present: Mike Vinskey, John Gorey, Bob Thompson, Catherine Hilton, and Mark Rivers

Guests: Walter Tibbetts and John Kinder

Commenced: 9:05 AM

1. The Minutes from the April 15, 2017 meeting were reviewed, edited, and approved.
2. Committee Scope and Membership.

Catherine proposed the following new version of the Committee's Scope

The purpose of the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee is to serve as a liaison between Town government and the lake community, and to promote the preservation, maintenance, and enhancement of the lake as a natural and recreational resource. Its purview includes protection of water quality from septic systems and other sources of contamination, erosion and runoff control, and dam safety. Its functions include, but are not limited to, regular water quality assessment and oversight of the dam.

The membership of the committee would ideally include one member each from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Planning Board; the Emergency Management Director and Dam Keeper; and no more than five members of the Lake Wyola Association.

Bob and Mark will attend the May 16th Select Board meeting to seek approval for the new scope and to add the Emergency Management Director and Dam Keeper positions to the committee.

3. Continued development of the Lake Wyola Dam Operations and Maintenance Manual

Walter has finished the initial draft of the Operation and Maintenance manual. A copy was provide to all in attendance and a copy will be sent to Morris Root.

4. Review of the draft Select Board letter regarding Locks Pond Road Culvert Repair

At previous meeting we had discussions about the deteriorating condition of the Locks Pond Road culvert. We have concerns with both the structural integrity and its ability to handle abnormally high levels of storm water runoff. We would like the Select Board to investigate options to address the problem. Accordingly, Bob drafted the following letter to be present to the Select Board:

To the Select Board:

The Lake Wyola Advisory Committee, which is charged with advising the Select Board about matters pertaining to the lake, wishes to express our deep concern about the safety of the culvert downstream of the dam under Locks Pond Road. This culvert has been known to be deteriorating at least since the dam was repaired in 2009. The culvert's structural integrity is visibly impaired and its ability to handle increased water flow is in doubt. Indeed, there is a very real concern that the culvert could collapse even without the additional stress of flood conditions.

The Committee respectfully requests an update from the Select Board on the current condition of the culvert and the Town's plans to address this issue, along with a time frame for resolution. We would like to be able to review this information at the LWAC meeting in July.

5. Discussion on Randall Road Boat Ramp project

At the May meeting, we started to review the Sample Land Management Agreement and the Code of Massachusetts Regulations 320 CMR 2.00: Public Access Facilities Regulation. As there were questions that only Terry could answer, we deferred further discussions until the next meeting when he was present.

6. Update on goose management activities

Because of differences in harassment philosophies between the Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife versus the Mass Environmental Police, goose harassment has been temporarily stopped. The Mass Department of Fish and Wildlife encourages harassment however does not have an official permitting process. Contrary to the Fish and Game policy, the Environmental Police's interpretation is that without a permit, they consider harassment to be hunting. Bob has been in contact with both organizations and, with Mark, is attempting to meet with Fish and Wildlife to see if they can issue permits

The next meeting is scheduled for June 17th.

The meeting ended at 11:00