



Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC)

Updated: August 20, 2026

I. Purpose and Mission

The Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC) is established as a permanent standing advisory committee to the Shutesbury Select Board. The mission of the LWAC is to serve as an advisory body regarding the preservation, safety, maintenance, and enhancement of Lake Wyola as a vital environmental and recreational resource for the Town of Shutesbury.

II. Scope of Authority and Functions

As an advisory body, the LWAC has no regulatory, enforcement, or independent budgetary authority. Its primary functions include:

- **Infrastructure & Safety Advisory:** Providing tracking, oversight, and advisory support regarding the safety, operations, and long-term maintenance of the Lake Wyola Dam, the Locks Pond Road culvert, and related watershed infrastructure.
- **Environmental & Water Quality Monitoring:** Collaborating with the Board of Health and Conservation Commission to monitor water quality, combat invasive species (such as milfoil), and mitigate stormwater erosion and runoff.
- **Public Education:** Developing and distributing educational materials to watershed residents regarding proper septic system maintenance, safety, and pollution prevention as well as educating the public on environmental and safety issues.
- **Recreational & Economic Interests:** Collaborating with the Recreation Committee and local stakeholders to advise the Select Board on balancing multi-use recreational demands, enhancing public access, and evaluating sustainable local economic opportunities that align with the long-term environmental protection of the watershed.

III. Operations and Community Engagement

- **Joint Committee Meetings:** To ensure a unified approach to watershed protection and to maximize the town's eligibility for state and federal grants, the LWAC shall schedule routine joint meetings with the Stormwater Management and

Implementation Committee (SMIC) to address overlapping environmental jurisdictions and share public input.

- **Routine Public Feedback Sessions:** In fulfilling its role as a liaison between the town and the lake community, the LWAC shall convene open, dedicated public listening sessions at least bi-annually, once in the summer and once in the winter. These specific sessions will allow residents to comment and ask questions independent of regularly scheduled meetings. Following the listening sessions, the committee will present the information to the Select Board and offer recommendations as needed.

IV. Membership and Composition

The LWAC shall consist of eleven (11) voting members. The composition shall be balanced into three distinct functional blocks:

- **Town Board Representatives (4 Seats):**
 - One (1) member of the Planning Board
 - One (1) member of the Conservation Commission
 - One (1) member of the Recreation Committee
 - One (1) member of the Board of Health
- **Town Staff (2 Seats):**
 - The Shutesbury Dam Keeper (Ex-Officio)
 - The Emergency Management Director or his designee (Ex-Officio)
- **Community Residents (7 Seats):**
 - Three (3) residents or property owners within the Lake Wyola watershed area, appointed to represent the geographic interests of the neighborhood.
 - Three (3) at-large community members
 - One (1) non-resident community member

V. Terms and Appointment Authority

All appointments to the LWAC shall be made solely by the Select Board through the town's standard application process. No private third-party entity or non-profit organization may directly appoint or designate members to this municipal committee.

VI. Conflict of Interest Protections

To maintain public trust and satisfy M.G.L. c. 268A, the LWAC must operate with strict independence from any private non-profit entity:

- While members of private organizations (such as the Lake Wyola Association) are welcome to apply as independent town citizens, no more than one (1) voting member of the LWAC may simultaneously serve as Officers or Directors on the governing board of any private, lake-related 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.
- Any member holding dual roles must proactively file a Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest with the Select Board and must fully recuse themselves from discussing or voting on any town matter that directly or substantially impacts the financial or legal interests of said private organization.