

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-Minutes-

August 15, 2020 at 9:00 AM

Via Zoom

Members Present: April Stein, Howard Kinder, John Gorey, Catherine Hilton, Mark Rivers, Walter Tibbetts, Terry Smith, and Tracy McNaughton

Guest: Bob Douglas, Melissa Hadusto, Katie Cerow, Karen Keegan, and Ray LaClaire

1. The minutes from the February 15, 2020, meeting were reviewed, edited and approved.
2. Update on Locks Pond Road Culvert repair

The replacement of the Locks Pond Road Culvert is scheduled to begin in July, 2021, and is expected to take several months to complete. The road is expected to be closed for a three-week period with local traffic detoured around Wendell Road and commercial traffic detoured to Lake View Rd. to North Leverett Rd. to Cave Hill Rd., to Montague Rd to Shutesbury Rd.

Mark provided an update at the August 2020 LWA meeting and it is hoped that Walter can provide an update prior to 2021 June LWA meeting. Plus additional community outreach will planned.

In addition to the culvert replacement, additional work to the leakage monitoring weir and repairs to the sluiceway are being planned.

3. Update on Shutesbury's draft of the Summary Report from the Community Resilience Building Workshop with specific reference to Storm Water Runoff Management

A draft review was held at the MVP Listening session on Thursday, June 30, at 6pm. A number of lake residents participated and felt that the importance of the lake ecosystem and its vulnerability to extreme weather and climate-related hazards were under-represented. Specifically, participants had concerns about silt contamination from storm-water runoff over the dirt roads and via Fiske Brook polluting the lake. We also expressed the need to be able to address corrective measures on publically accessible private roads which are owned by the Lake Wyola Association, which is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. These roads are the rainwater conduit between the town-owned Locks Pond Road and Lake Wyola, which is a Massachusetts-owned Great Pond. The group sent formal comments to Becky who passed them onto the authoring consultants at Fuss & O'Neill. A copy is attached.

Terry asked if the plan would include a listing of various grants. Mark will contact Becky to see if they can provide a listing of available grants such as Massachusetts 319 grants and federal rural development funds.

The LWAC voted to ask the Select Board to form a town wide committee, similar to the Dam Management Committee which was formed to facilitate reconstruction of the dam in 2008. The committee would broadly represent storm-water runoff issues around the town

and should have representation from DPW, Conservation Commission, the Select Board, Town Administrator, Lake Wyola Association, and other residents who have expertise in this area and in grant writing. Tracy volunteered to draft a letter that would be sent to the SB. The draft will be sent to Mark, who will send it to the committee. Comments/edits must be sent to Mark who will compile them into a draft that will be reviewed at the September LWAC meeting.

During the week before today's LWAC meeting, several residents wanted to know if additional water from the Morse Hill side of Locks Pond Road could be channeled directly into the Sawmill River instead of it being routed first into Lake Wyola.

4. E-coli tests results

On August 3, 6 and 10 the Lake Wyola Association's West Beach had unusually high E-coli content. The e-coli limit is 235 and readings of 1160, 2419 and 2090 were obtained. Mark noted that since 2011 levels at the West Beach had never been that high. The source of the elevated reading is unknown. Catherine volunteered to publish the test results on the Board of Health web site.

5. Issues related to the state park

So far, except for parking limitation, there have been no major issues at the state park. There is concerns about the lack of social distancing; however, the park staff has no control over walk-ins so it is not possible to limit access. It was recommended that the Select Board contact our state legislators requesting that both parking and beach access limits be implemented.

6. Status of 2020 goose addling activities

The 2020 goose addling report has been sent (via e-mail and U.S Mail) to Mass Div. Fish. & Wildlife.

7. Water level gauge

Walter has installed the water level gauge. It is located in the north cove adjacent to the water hydrant.

The next meeting will be scheduled for September 19, 2020