

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-Minutes-

August 20, 2022 at 9:00 AM
Via Zoom and Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Mary David, Eric Stocker, Art Keene, John Gorey, Walter Tibbitts, Howard Kinder, and Mark Rivers
Guest: John Kinder

1. The minutes from the June 18, 2022, meeting were approved.

2. Committee Membership

The Select Board approved Walter's continued membership on the committee.

3. Storm Water Runoff and Watershed Erosion Mitigation

Update on MVP Action Grant Application

The town will not be receiving the MVP action grant.

Suggestion for state earmark fund request

Rita Farrell, SB chair, sent a letter to our state representatives, Senator Jo Comerford and Representative Natalie Blais, requesting that they earmark, in the FY'23 Supplemental Budget, \$350,000 from the Commonwealth's Land and Water Conservation Fund. This funding would be used to address comprehensive stormwater management efforts to improve runoff conditions within the Lake Wyola basin area including work on town roads, association private roads, and the DCR's State Park facility. The text of the letter is attached.

Watershed-Based Plan and Potential 319 Grant funding

FRCOG is still working on the draft of the "Watershed-Based Plan" which is currently being reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection. We will have an opportunity to review and comment before it is finalized.

McAvoy and Ames Pond Dams

The current condition of both dams is unknown. It is still unclear who owns the Ames Pond Dam and therefore who is responsible for its maintenance.

Catherine will contact the town attorney requesting help to determine who the current owner of the Ames Pond dam is. Walter will contact the state Office of Dam Management to see if he can get copies of the recent dam inspection reports for McAvoy and Ames ponds

4. Boating Safety

It was observed that more motorboats than usual are not following the lake's counterclockwise travel rules, possibly occasional boaters who are not familiar with the boat regulations. While safety cards are available at the boat ramp, not everyone is reading them. The proposal is to install a clearly visible sign that lists two important safety rules:

- Boat Traffic is counterclockwise
- Speed limit is 30 MPH

At our next meeting, we can discuss the sign's wording, and if approved have it installed in the spring of 2023.

5. Safe Access to the Dam

The Select Board has received several safety concerns related to people climbing onto, and swimming off of the dam. Can dam access be permitted while safety concerns are addressed?

Eric will attempt to have this issue discussed at a future SB meeting and John Kinder will send us a letter dated July 10, 2020, that he and Howard drafted, documenting improper use of the dam and surrounding area.

4. Dam Maintenance and Repairs

Morris Root is hoping to visit the dam in October to review maintenance and repair needs.

5. Culvert Replacement

The culvert replacement has been postponed until September, 2023.

6. Beach *E.coli* testing

The *E.coli* test data from the three LWA beaches was very low this year. The state beach seems to have had high results; however they are not measuring *E.coli* but another indicator organism, *Enterococci*, instead. We decided to take periodic water samples from the state beach in 2023 obtain a sense of their *E.coli* levels compared with the LWA beaches.

7. Goose Egg Addling Report.

No nests were located this year and no eggs addled. Mark sent this information to the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

The meeting ended at 10:15

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2022.

Senator Jo Comerford
24 Beacon Street
Room 70C
Boston, MA 02133
Representative Natalie Blais
24 Beacon Street
Room B1
Boston, MA 02133

July 1, 2022

Dear Jo and Natalie,

In order for Town of Shutesbury to advance its interests of Climate Resilience and to safeguard various sites of concern within the Lake Wyola basin area the Town seeks support for an earmark in the FY'23 Supplemental Budget before the current session ends July 31st in the minimum amount of \$350,000 from the Commonwealth's Land and Water Conservation Fund. Communities are usually awarded these funds around October.

Several state departments and neighboring towns also have a stake in this resilience effort. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is a stakeholder on Lake Wyola and it has upstream holdings along Fiske Brook which flow into the lake. The Department of Fish and Game has upstream holdings in the Wendell Wildlife Management Area and downstream holdings in Leverett and Montague. Existing dam maintenance and tributary issues on Fiske Brook in Wendell pose a risk to critical fish and wildlife habitat downstream, as well as degradable water quality risks for Lake Wyola during periods of heavy rains and flooding. Storm events have previously demonstrated negative impacts with large silt deposits in Lake Wyola's North Cove and washed-out foot bridge access pathways downstream.

Collaboratively, the Town of Shutesbury, LWAC, and FRCOG representatives recently met to proactively walk and inspect various sites in the Lake Wyola watershed area. FRCOG is working on a comprehensive hydrologic watershed study and engineering report. In addition, DCR previously developed a localized report for LWAC involving Stormwater Management Best Management Practices for Locks Pond Road on the West Side of the lake. The Town and LWAC have utilized information in that report and have implemented suggested practices to the best of our funding abilities.

State assistance is needed to continue to address the more comprehensive stormwater management efforts within the Wyola basin area including work on town roads, private roads, and at DCR's State facilities to improve runoff conditions. A logical source of funding would be the Commonwealth's Land and Water Conservation Fund mentioned above. We would be grateful for your efforts to secure those funds.

Please direct any questions to Mark Rivers, Chairman of the Town of Shutesbury Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC), regarding these matters. His email is: riversmarkh@gmail.com.

We appreciate your representation in the State House. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Regards,

Rita Farrell
Chair, Shutesbury Selectboard