

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-Draft Minutes-

January 21, 2023 at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Mary David, David Green, Terry Smith, Walter Tibbetts, Howard Kinder, Eric Stocker, Art Keene, John Gorey and Mark Rivers

Guests: John Kinder, Miriam DeFant, MaryJo Johnson, Bob Douglas, Frank Potter, Tom Siefert, Tracy McNaughton

1. The minutes from the December 17, 2022, meeting were approved.

- 2. Storm Water Runoff and Watershed Erosion Mitigation**

FRCOG has not provided a January progress update. Mark will contact them before our February 18th meeting.

- 3. Notice of Intent for the Annual Winter Lake Lowering**

We requested that the 2018 Order of Condition permitting the winter lowering be renewed for another 5 years. Miriam noted that the ConCom would like the town to first request an amendment to the OOC that incorporated the items in the 2019 Memorandum into the new OOC, and apply for the permit extension after that amendment is granted. She also requested that the LWAC recommend that the town hire Emily Stockman to perform a review of the original OOC, MOU, and Wildlife Habitat Evaluation and attend a ConCom meeting at a cost of \$660. The committee approved a motion to advise the Select Board to hire Emily. Mark will send the request to the Town Administrator and Select Board. Terry reminded us that because the Town is the dam owner, the Select Board should be more intimately involve in decisions related to managing the lake.

- 4. Boating Safety Signage at the Boat Ramp**

The LWAC proposal to add a “boating safety sign” that will be attached to the existing kiosk at the boat ramp will be discussed at the February 9th ConCom meeting.

- 5. Lake Wyola Dam Study Committee**

Eric provided an update on the committee’s activities. Their goal is to make recommendations to the Select Board regarding public access to the dam. They have performed site visits and met with local residents to get a good understanding of issues. At this point, no decisions have been made, but they are leaning toward restricting access to the dam, adding “no parking” signs and possibly installing a gate. They will be finalizing their recommendation for the SB within the next month.

- 6. Dam Inspection, Maintenance, and Repairs**

We are still awaiting the report from the September 2021 inspection.

- 7. Shutesbury Conservation Commission**

Miriam provided an update on the ConCom discussions related to Chapter 91 dock permits and buoys. The state regulations require that dock permits be granted only after the ConCom has issued either an “Order of

Conditions” or a Negative Determination. ConCom is considering options that would allow docks and buoys to be installed without requiring a Notice of Intent and would like to develop a process that provides some oversight but is not onerous and doesn’t require a formal permitting process.

Terry suggested that an overall lake plan for safety and navigation buoys be developed and permitted. He also volunteered to allow the ConCom to use his simplified dock application as an example for others who would like to obtain their own permit.

Mark noted that it is important that the beach buoys be installed to protect swimmers. He will ask the town to look into the permitting process that would enable the beach buoys to be legally installed.

The meeting ended at 10:30

The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2023.