

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes

March 15, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Howard Kinder, John Gorey, David Green, Art Keene, Eric Stocker and Mark Rivers. Guests: Tom Siefert, John Kinder, Liz Good

1. The minutes from January 18, 2025, meeting were reviewed, edited, and approved.

2. Wildfire Prevention

- Mark will contact the Emergency Team to remind them of our request to discuss this issue at an upcoming Select Board meeting.
- Art is working with Phil Gilmore, DCR District 9 Fire Warden, to see if the LWA could sponsor the training.

3. Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force

Jennifer Wallace provided an update on the Task Force's activities. She noted that they have received several proposals for the Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) study that was recommended in FROCOG's watershed-based plan. This engineering analysis models the projected water and stream flow over the next 100 years and determines if the existing storm water infrastructure is adequate to handle the projected water flow.

The FROCOG Watershed-Based Plan recommends that a fluvial geomorphic study be performed on Fisk Brook. In the late 1990s a substantial amount of sediment was deposited in the north cove because of a beaver dam breach at Fisk Pond. Since that time, beaver damming activity has increased significantly. Instead of one dam, there are now four dams, holding back substantially more water. What happens when we have another significant rain event? Will a breach of the Fisk Pond beaver dam cause the lower dams on Fisk Brook to also breach; releasing much more water, debris, and sediment? What happens to the homes bordering the north cove? Could they be flooded? What happens to the Lakeview Road culvert, which is already compromised? The FGM study could potentially answer these questions.

Potentially, a Rural Development grant is available to fund both the H&H and FGM studies; however, the deadline for the town to provide an expression of interest by March 26th with the actual application due in June. The grant is somewhat contingent on a 10% matching from the town and the Lake Wyola Association.

Dave and Jennifer offered to provide a draft the expression of interest for the select board to help them meet the March 26th deadline date.

4. Update on Dam Permitting and Repairs Activities

- The focus during the past few months is on finding funding to pay for engineering and repairs.
- We have applied for CPA funding to pay for 25% of the engineering planning for the dam repairs.
 - GZA is looking for other funding options from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) Dam Technical Assistance Grant program.
- Phase I dam safety evaluation is planned for May, 2025. Mark reminded them to contact Howard.
- We have confirmation that the dam structure and water level management operation is exempt from Chapter 91 permitting and licensing. This allows us to manage the water level and saves the town tens of thousands in cost.

5. Beaver Dam activity at the Lakeview Road culvert

Howard noted that a beaver dam at the Lakeview Road culvert is posing a threat to the culvert. This dam should be removed before April 1. Historically, the highway department has proactively removed dams at that culvert; however, that has not happened this year. Catherine noted that the Board of Health had previously provided permission to remove the dam and ordered them to keep it clear in the future. She agreed to provide a copy of their orders. If the dam is not removed, it will prohibit navigation up Fiske brook and prevent Camp Anderson for canoeing to the lake.

6. Dam keeper's wintertime access to the dam to maintain the lake level

This winter Howard noted that access to the dam was extremely difficult because he was not allowed to plow a pathway to the dam. He was wondering what the status land purchase that would enable him to make a clear path. Eric noted that he would look into it and said that it should be the responsibility of the new town administrator to lead the effort.

The meeting ended at 10:00 AM
Next meeting is on April 19, 2025