

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Approved Minutes

May 17, 2025, at 9:00 AM
Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Howard Kinder, Walter Tibbetts, and Mark Rivers

Members Remote: David Green, Art Keene, and Eric Stocker

Guests: Tom Siefert, Mary David, and Bob Douglas

1. The minutes from the April 19, 2025, meeting were reviewed and approved.

2. Committee Membership.

All members present want to be reappointed by the Select Board for next year's term. Mark will contact members who were not present to determine their wishes.

Eric noted that we are missing participation from the EMT Director, Planning Board and Conservation Commission. Mark will also contact them and request that they encourage one of their members to join LWAC.

3. Wildfire Prevention

We are waiting to hear back from Phil Gilmore, DCR District 9 Fire Warden, with the date of the zoom training secession. As soon as information is available, Mark will forward it to the committee.

As recommenced by Phil, Mark will send a note to the EMT requesting that they develop a wildfire evacuation plan for the lake region.

4. Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force

The committee reviewed and unanimously voted to fully support the Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force's application for a Rural Development Fund grant. If the grant is received, the funds will pay for the design of stormwater erosion controls for the roads around the lake and for a geomorphic assessment of Fiske Brook. Mark will send the letter of support to the Town Administrator and Select Board. The Committee approved the attached copy.

5. Update on Dam Permitting and Repairs Activities

Our dam engineering consultant, GZA, will be performing our biennial Phase I dam inspection on May 20, 2025 beginning at 9:30 AM. Mark will notify the Emergency Management Director.

Howard noted that the Trash Rack is becoming clogged again and needs to be cleaned. Historically, Spring and Fall cleanings are needed and this requires a scuba diver. Mark agreed to send a note to the Town Administrator informing her that a diver needs to be hired to take care of this maintenance task. It is not optional because during the summer months, when the natural water flow is low, if the water cannot flow freely through the trash rack and sluiceway valve, we may not be able to maintain enough flow to the Sawmill River.

Historically, this task was done by Walter, with Howard's assistance. He is still available to make the dive. The estimate time and material cost is not to exceed \$400 dollars.

We should hear back from the Office of Dam Safety regarding the Dam and Seawall grant before our June meeting.

6. Beaver Dam Activity at the Lakeview Road culvert

Howard noted that the brush and soil within the culvert still needs to be removed. Mark will contact the town administrator to see if she has contacted Beaver Solutions.

7. Randall Road Boat Ramp

At our May meeting, Howard noted that the boat ramp needs road/ramp maintenance, and the adjacent brush needs to be trimmed. Also, the Clivus Toilet needs maintenance. A question raised is "who is currently responsible for the ramp and toilet?" The committee's belief is that the ConCom is responsible for the boat ramp area. We thought the best approach was to notify the ConCom. Catherine agreed to draft a letter to be sent to ConCom.

The meeting ended at 9:52 AM
Next meeting is on June 21, 2025

May 19, 2025

Shutesbury Select Board

The town of Shutesbury's Lake Wyola Advisory Committee (LWAC) voted to fully support the Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force application for a Rural Development Fund grant. LWAC has been working with the Franklin Regional County Government (FRCOG) for many years on the Lake Wyola Watershed-based Plan (MA34103) which builds on 25 years of assessment, planning, and best management practices implemented to improve the water quality in Lake Wyola. The watershed-based plan summarized these historical studies and identified the most significant areas of concern that need to be addressed, one of which is storm water runoff from roads around Lake Wyola. The next step is to perform the necessary engineering studies and final designs for properly sized climate-resilient stormwater mitigation measures. It is critical for progress to continue so that the lake and surrounding roads can be protected from ever-increasing sediment contamination and potential flooding from stormwater runoff.

Mark Rivers

Chairman, Lake Wyola Advisory Committee