

# LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## *Minutes*

August 16, 2025, at 9:00 AM  
Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Howard Kinder, Mark Rivers, and Tom Siefert

Members remote: Art Keene, and Eric Stocker

Members absent: Terry Smith, Walter Tibbetts, and Bob Douglas

Guests: John Kinder

### 1. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the May 17, 2025, meeting were not approved. Tom provided a document that included his recommended edits. Catherine moved that Tom's edits be incorporated into the May minutes and reviewed at the next meeting. Tom seconded the motion. The motion passed via roll call vote noted below.

LWAC vote			
	Yes	No	Abstain
Bob Douglas			
David Green			
John Gorey			
Catherine Hilton	x		
Art Keene			x
Howard Kinder	x		
Mark Rivers	x		
Tom Siefert	x		
Terry Smith			
Eric Stocker	x		
Walter Tibbetts			

### 2. Committee Secretary

Catherine moved that Tom should be made secretary. Tom seconded the motion. Mark noted that he has no problem with drafting the minutes and sends that to the membership in advance of the meeting so that everyone can provide edits which can be incorporated before the next meeting.

The motion failed via roll call vote noted below.

LWAC vote			
	Yes	No	Abstain
Bob Douglas			
David Green			
John Gorey			
Catherine Hilton	x		
Art Keene		x	
Howard Kinder		x	
Mark Rivers		x	
Tom Siefert	x		
Terry Smith			
Eric Stocker		x	
Walter Tibbetts			

### 3. Committee Membership

Tom questioned how many committee members are also members of the Lake Wyola Association (LWA). A count indicated that four committee members are also on LWA (Art, John, Howard and

Mark). The committee also discussed the membership makeup that was proposed and approved at the 05/13/2017 LWAC meeting and approved by the Select Board at their 05/16/2017 meeting. The wording of the current membership includes:

“The membership of the committee would ideally include one member each from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Planning Board; the Emergency Management Director and Dam Keeper; and no more than five members of the Lake Wyola Association.”

There was a difference of opinion as to the interpretation of the membership, including the role of semicolons and the word “ideally”. Mark agreed to ask the Select Board to confirm that the current wording is as they intended which is documented in the minutes of their 5/17/2017 meeting.

#### **4. Invasive Plants Identified in the Lake**

Art noted that for the first time an invasive plant (milfoil) was detected. A DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) team is scheduled to perform an inspection in September. Catherine volunteered to contact Kathy and Tim Timson to obtain additional details.

#### **5. Wildfire Prevention**

The Fire Wise training was conducted on Saturday June 21. The recorded presentation links were sent to members of LWA and Mark sent the links to Chief Czerwonka recommending that they also be included on the Town and LWA websites.

The presentation can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/f3CBSOMe4cQ>

Free home fire safety inspections are scheduled for Saturday, September 6, 2025. It is available to everyone in town. The assessments are only of the outside of homes and residents can join the DCR team to walk their property and talk with fire program staff. Assessments take about 15-20 minutes. It is best if resident can be there at the time of the assessment but if the resident can't be there, the team can still do an assessment.

Sign up here: <https://forms.office.com/g/SjPUBXnjd5>

#### **6. Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force**

Tom noted that the activity day and webinar were held as scheduled. Eight people attended the webinar and fifteen to twenty attended the activity day. The site visit was not held.

We are waiting to hear if the Rural Development grant to cover the design work will be awarded; which is scheduled to be determined in October

#### **7. Update on Dam Repair and Maintenance Activities**

We received the biennial Phase I dam inspection report dated August 6, 2025, which was distributed to the LWAC membership on 8/14/2025. The good news is there has not been significantly more deterioration; however the following issues still exist and need to be fixed:

1. Grout at downstream face of dam surrounding the PVC liner in the low-level outlet is deteriorated and leaking.

2. Concrete cracking, deterioration, and spalling/weathering on primary spillway training walls, crest, and apron.
3. Minor voids and missing stones in downstream masonry wall.
4. Horizontal joint in primary spillway leaks.
5. Seepage monitoring weir is not located to function properly.
6. Vegetation and debris on stone fill downstream of the primary spillway right overflow section.
7. Emergency Action Plan personnel contact information is out of date.

We are still waiting to see if we receive a grant from the Office of Dam Safety to cover 75% of the \$55,000 cost for GZA to write the scope of work and obtain bids to perform the repairs. CPC funds will cover the remaining 25%. If the funding becomes available, the Scope of Work should be completed this Fall and the actual repairs completed in the Fall of 2026, pending available funding which is estimated to cost between \$260,000 - \$340,000.

Howard noted that access to the dam over the abutter's property still needs to be worked out.

Walter has the liability release from the town for working on the trash rack. If the cleaning has not already been completed, Howard and Walter will schedule a date to clean

Howard, Walter, and Mark need to schedule a date to repair the water level gauge

Regarding the winter lake lowering, which protects the dam from ice damage, all permits are in place for the 2025 and 2026 lowering. This fall GZA and town officials will begin obtaining permits for 2027 and beyond.

## 8. Beaver Dam Management at the Lakeview Road culvert

Howard noted that the beaver dam was removed but is already being rebuilt. Historically, routine preventive maintenance of the culvert was the responsibility of the town highway department; however, they are no longer taking care of it.

Howard will attempt to address the issue at a future SB meeting.

## 9. Randall Road Boat Ramp

The boat ramp needs brush trimming and a pothole underneath the water needs repairs. Bob is following up with ConCom as they are in control of this area. If action is not taken, eventually the boat ramp will be unusable. Since Lake Wyola is a great pond, there is a question of whether there is a legal requirement to keep the boat ramp accessible.

Catherine moved to end the meeting at 9:50 AM and Howard seconded the motion which passed via roll call vote noted below.

LWAC vote			
	Yes	No	Abstain
Bob Douglas			
David Green			
John Gorey			
Catherine Hilton	x		
Art Keene	x		
Howard Kinder	x		
Mark Rivers	x		
Tom Siefert	x		
Terry Smith			
Eric Stocker	x		
Walter Tibbetts			

Next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2025

Recommended edits to the July 19 meeting provided by Tom

**LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
*Draft Minutes*

July 19, 2025, at 9:00 AM  
Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, John \*Gory, Howard Kinder, Walter Tibbetts, and Tom Siefert  
Members Remote: David Green, \*\*Art Keene, Bob Douglas, Mark Rivers and Eric Stocker  
Guests: Nathan Murphy

\* Gorey

\*\* Members Absent: Art Keene and Terry Smith

1. The minutes from the May 17, 2025, meeting were reviewed and \*approved.

*\* There is no record of the roll call vote on the May 17, 2025, minutes. Green moved to approve. Stocker seconded. Douglas abstained.*

**2. Committee Membership.**

The Select Board appointed two new members to the committee: Tom Siefert represents the Planning Board and Bob Douglas representing the Conservation Commission. \*Mark was nominated to serve as committee chair.

*\* There is no record of the roll call vote on Mark's becoming Chair. Siefert moved. Green seconded. Did Mark vote "no"?*

Tom was questioning if there were too many representatives from the \*Lake Association on the committee. \*\*Our original charter defined the membership to include a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 5 members from the Lake Association. However, with Tom representing the Planning Board \*\*\*and also being a member of the Lake Association, we are exceeding the 5 member limit. Several members noted that Tom is acting as a representative of the Planning Board and not as a member of the Lake Association, \*\*\*\*so we didn't see an issue. \*\*\*\*\*Mark will contact the Select Board to ask their opinion and if needed to remove the 5-person limit.

\* Lake Wyola Association

\*\* 1991: The membership structure of the original LWAC charter reads:

*It was agreed that the committee would be best formed by having at least one member each from the Planning Board, Conservation Commission, and the Board of Health. We also feel that participation by a Select Board member would be beneficial. It is expected that the Lake Association will choose a minimum of three and a maximum of five members for the committee, and may also choose any additional property owners who might lend technical expertise.*

2017: The original LWAC charter was amended by the Select Board at their meeting on May 16, 2017, with a new "Proposed LWAC Scope." (See Select Board minutes of 5/16/2107: Makepeace-O'Neil moves the Select Board approve the "Proposed LWAC Scope"; motion is seconded by DeChiara and passes unanimously.)

The amended membership structure of LWAC in the "Proposed LWAC Scope" included with the Select Board minutes of 5/16/2017 reads:

"The membership of the committee would ideally include one member each from the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, and Planning Board; the Emergency Management Director and Dam Keeper; and no more than five members of the Lake Wyola Association."

At the Select Board meeting on 5/16/2017, the following motion also passed, setting the number of members of LWAC at eleven:

"Makepeace-O'Neil moves the Select Board merge the Dam Management Committee into the Lake Wyola Advisory Committee to make a committee of eleven members by adding Howard Kinder, Richard Brazeau of Leverett for his expertise, Walter Tibbetts (Paul Lyons will be asked to serve as ConCom representative to the LWAC); motion seconded by DeChiara and passes unanimously."

\*\*\* Siefert is not a member of LWA.

\*\*\*\* Who are the "we" here?

\*\*\*\*\* In Mark's email to the SB, he wrote that Siefert is an LWA member, but Siefert is not an LWA member.

The committee does not have a member from the Emergency Management Team. Mark will contact the EMT and ask if someone from their team would be willing to serve on LWAC. Alternatively, Walter would be willing to serve as a liaison between LWAC and the EMT.

### 3. Wildfire Prevention

The Fire Wise training was conducted on Saturday June 21. The recorded presentation links were sent to members of LWA and Mark sent the links to Chief Czerwonka recommending that the links also be included on the Town and LWA websites.

The presentation can be viewed at this link: <https://youtu.be/f3CBSOMe4cQ>

We are expecting a follow-up contact from \*Alex with instructions for signing up for a home inspection.

\* Alex Belote, Fire Program Coordinator, Mass. Dept. of Conservation and Recreation

The fire chief is working with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency to develop an evacuation plan for the lake region.

### 4. Lake Wyola Stormwater Erosion Task Force

Tom reported that on Sunday, August 10th, from 11:00 to 12:30 at the association hall there will be a presentation about the watershed dynamics that lead to stormwater erosion and sediment in the lake and what you can do about it.

Also a webinar will be held on Tuesday evening, August 12th, 7 to 8 p.m. The Stormwater Task Force and the FRCOG will co-present on the Lake Wyola Watershed, how we got to the point of needing a task force to tackle erosion, how to approach improving stormwater erosion and water quality for the long-term and at the watershed scale, and what you can do. Q & A will follow.

*\* The flyer that Siefert displayed is not listed in the minutes.*

## 5. Update on Dam Repair and Maintenance Activities

The biennial Phase I dam inspection was performed on May 20, 2025 and we expect to receive report by July 30. *\*Walter* noted that the GZA inspection engineer is recommending that the leakage weir be relocated closer to the base of the dam.

*\* Howard.*

The trash rack has not been cleaned. Mark sent a note to *\*Hayley and Brennan* on June 6; explaining what the trash rack is and the need to clean it. Walter will follow up with Hayley, Brennan and the Select Board

*\* Hayley Bolton (Town Administrator) and Brennan Mailloux (Administrative Assistant)*

Howard also noted that the water level gauge needs to be adjusted. Mark volunteered to help make the adjustments.

We have not heard back from the Office of Dam Safety regarding the Dam and Seawall grant. We were supposed to know in June.

## 6. Beaver Dam Activity at the Lakeview Road culvert

Eric will follow up with Hayley to determine if Beaver Solutions has been contacted to remove the beaver dam that was built at the road culvert.

## 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. Mark sent a note to the Conservation Committee asking for their thoughts on corrective measures. Bob will follow up with ConCom.

*\* The bathrooms on Randall Road were discussed and the question posed about who cleans them.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

*There is no record of N. Murphy's public comment.*

*\*The meeting ended at 9:50 AM*

*\* There is no record of the roll call vote to adjourn. Green moved. Stocker seconded.*

Next meeting is on August 16, 2025