

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

September 20, 2025, at 9:00 AM

Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

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

Members remote: Art Keene, Eric Stocker and Bob Douglas

Members absent: Terry Smith, Dave Green and Tom Siefert

Guests: John Kinder

1. Public Comment

John Kinder wanted to acknowledge the efforts of the team that repaired the water level staff gauge which had been damaged by the ice movement during last winter. Those who helped include Howard Kinder, Walter Tibbetts, Mark Rivers, and John Kinder.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from July 19, 2025, and August 16, 2025, meetings were reviewed and approved. Walter moved to approve the July minutes. Catherine seconded the motion. Catherine moved to approve the August minutes. Walter seconded the motion. Both motions passed via roll call vote noted below.

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

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

3. Committee Membership

- Dave Green resigned from the committee. We will miss his leadership, especially his recent efforts to protect the lake region from wildfires.
- Mark received an email from Mary David offering to join the committee. Mary was a former member representing the Conservation Commission.

We will vote on new members at our next meeting.

4. Committee Membership Definition

Mark proposed the following revised committee membership definition:

The membership of the committee would include:

- One member from the Select Board
- One member from the Conservation Commission
- One member from the Board of Health
- One member from the Planning Board
- The Emergency Management Director
- The Dam Keeper
- Additionally a minimum of 3 members and a maximum of 5 members of the Lake Wyola Association (LWA).
- The committee membership may also include additional property owners who might lend technical expertise.

Eric questioned how we would handle situations when, for example, a Selectboard Member (SB) is also a member of LWA. Mark thought that as a designated member of the SB, they would exclusively represent the SB. If there was a discussion where there was a conflict between the two roles, then they would recuse themselves from the discussion. This is a similar process used by other committees, for example, when a ConCom member is also an abutter.

Bob expressed a similar concern that if members assigned by the boards and commissions were also LWA members, the committee's balance would be skewed in favor of the lake representation.

Mark will revise the above definition and review it at our next meeting.

5. Invasive Plants Identified in the Lake

At our August meeting it was noted that, for the first time, an invasive plant (milfoil) was detected. We are trying to get additional details on the problem's scope. Bob noted that he has worked with four ponds and that aggressive actions are needed to restrict milfoil's spread. He suggested that we contact Solitude Lake Management to have them develop a milfoil management plan.

Mark will contact Kathy and Tim Timson to find out if they have additional details. We will also try to find a contact at DCR (Department of Conservation and Recreation) who might have information.

6. Update on Dam Repair and Maintenance Activities

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. Expecting the Town Administrator and GZA project manager to meet and finalize the scoping project in October.

Walter, with John's and Howard's assistance, Scuba dove and cleaned the trash rack which was very clogged. A video of the cleaning was played at the meeting. In addition to the trash rack being heavily clogged, Walter also noted that the gate valve operation was impaired by a piece of fire wood that went through the trash rack and was wedged in the opening around the pipe where the grout is missing. He noted that the water leakage flow rate is substantially greater than several years ago.

7. Beaver Dam Management at the Lakeview Road culvert

John Kinder provided the photographs below of the beaver dam as seen from the down-stream side. The dam's presence creates two hazards. First, it reduces the culvert's flow capacity which, if there is severe storm, could result in the road being washed out. Second, if the dam breaks during a storm, all of the material/silt would be washed into the lake.

Historically, Howard and Walter would remove the dam by hand. However, within days the beavers would begin reconstruction. Three times per week, Howard would remove the initial construction which eventually caused the beavers to abandon the site.

There was a question whether it was legal to use a backhoe to remove the dam. Bob noted that backhoes are routinely used to remove beaver dams. He also noted that the Board of Health must issue a permit before the dams removal. Mark agreed to circulate these pictures to the Select Board,

the Highway Department and the Town



Administrator

The picture below shows a pile of material from a previous remove dam which is on the up-stream side of the road.



Catherine made a motion that the LWAC advise the SB to direct the highway department or another entity to obtain the appropriate permits and then remove the beaver dam and perform ongoing maintenance to prevent it from being rebuilt. Howard seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously

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

8. Randall Road Boat Ramp

The boat ramp needs brush trimming and a pothole underneath the water needs repairs. Bob noted that it was discussed at a recent ConCom meeting. They decided that a group of volunteers could trim the brush without needing a Notice of Intent. Repairing the pothole which is under the water will require a permit. Once the lake is lowered for the winter, Mark will consult with Terry Smith to determine repair options.

Catherine suggested that we solicit volunteers to help with the brush cleaning.

9. Firewise Training

Mark thanked Len for his efforts at organizing the Firewise Training. During the site visit at Mark's house, the DCR firemen provided relatively simple recommendation to reduce the wildfire risk including using gravel instead of bark mulch around the house, and making sure the house numbers were visible from both directions on the road.

Len is also working on an evacuation plan for the lake region and will ask DCR to repeat the training next year.

Mark moved to end the meeting at 10:14 AM and Walter seconded the motion which passed via roll call vote noted below.

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

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2025