

Lake Wyola Boating and Safety Review Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: **October 23, 2024**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom (virtual Town Hall)

Attendance (P = present, Abs = absent)

Committee Members:

Matt Borowiec (Chair), P	Christine Brassil, Abs	David Green, P
Amy Lehane, Abs	Judy Rimmel, P	Mark E. Rivers, P
Kathy Salvador, P	Tom Siefert, P	Alexandria Windcaller, Abs

Ad hoc Committee Members:

Fire Department Representative, Abs
Police Department Representative, Abs

Guests Present: None

1. Open meeting and Review Agenda

- Meeting called to order at 6:33 and agenda reviewed by Borowiec.

2. Comments from chairman

Borowiec: Confirms for committee that Michael Connors will be invited to speak to the committee, since Mr. Connors was involved in a recent boating accident.
Webpage for the committee is up and running at the Town website. The committee email can be set up to forward messages to each member.

3. Approval of minutes from October 10, 2024

- Motion by Green to approve the minutes of 10/10/2024. Motion seconded by Rivers.

Vote:

Borowiec, aye	Brassil, not present	Green, aye	Lehane, not present
Rimmel, aye	Rivers, aye	Salvador, aye	Siefert, aye Windcaller: not present

- Motion passes (aye: six, nay: zero, abstain: zero)

4. Public comment - None

5. Continue discussing Lake Wyola Bylaws 3-5. The following topics in the bylaws were discussed:

TOPIC: Enforcement and Fines

Green: Is calling the police the way to go regarding enforcement? Is there a three strikes and you're out rule? We will have to wait on enforcement questions until a meeting with the police present.

Rivers: Improving enforcement would require resources that we would have to ask the Town for.

Knowing that the police will be here will help for planning meetings.

Borowiec: Fines do exist. We could charge them. We need to ask police for their ideas too.

TOPIC: Speed of boats, speed limit

Rivers: We can think of “headway speed” or “no wake speed” as 5 miles per hour.

Rommel: The speed of skiers is also a factor to consider besides the speed of boats.

TOPIC: 150-line from shore. No motorized vessels operating above headway speed within 150 feet from shore. Swimmers more than 150 feet from shore must be accompanied by a boat or buoy.

Rommel: It is hard to judge where 150 feet from shore is. People disagree about what the distance looks like. Do skiers breach the 150 feet line when they take off from docks?

Rivers: There are swim buoys placed 75 feet from shore and bigger buoys placed 150 feet from shore at the Lake Wyola Association beaches.

Siefert: Maybe the buoys could be better signed and marked so people know what they mean.

Salvador: Where did the 150 feet distance come from and is it reasonable? Regarding buoys, besides at LWA beaches, buoys or signs could also be at the ends of people’s docks.

Rivers: The 150ft distance comes from MA state law. Coordinating with the state beach would help too.

Siefert: Displayed a homemade map with some indicators of what an inner perimeter of 150 feet from the shore might look like.

TOPIC: Signage for the public

Borowiec: The boat ramp would probably be a good place for a map or a sign about the 150 foot distance and the counter-clockwise restriction. Maybe we could also have signage at the LWA Building and at the sign at the intersection by the dam (Locks Pond Rd and Lakeview Rd).

TOPIC: Counter-clockwise direction for motorized vessels.

Rivers: Arrows on the map that Siefert displayed earlier could help reinforce the counter-clockwise restriction.

Green: The counter-clockwise restriction seems well adhered to.

Rivers: The counter-clockwise restriction is probably the number one violation. This directional restriction is helpful on a body of water.

Siefert: Other towns in MA restrict direction to counter-clockwise for motorboats.

TOPIC: Paddlers and swimmers

Rivers: Education could be offered to swimmers and paddlers about some best practices such as swim caps, group swimming, having lights on before leaving, being aware of motorboats, knowing the direction of motorboats.

Rommel: It is hard for a swimmer to navigate in coves and to keep eyes on everything.

Green: We cannot make paddlers go in a certain direction.

TOPIC: No water skiing at night

Rivers: To include tubing and related activities, we might change the word “water skiing” to “towing” or “recreational towing.”

Salvador: Is water skiing noise a problem?

OTHER comments:

Siefert: Will send out links to state and federal laws and regulations regarding boating because some of Shutebury’s boating bylaws are the same as state laws and regulations.

Rivers: Besides the counter-clockwise restriction, overtaking boats should be looked at too. Education about traffic patterns on the water would be good.

6. New Business: None

7. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. by Green. Motion seconded by Rivers.

Vote:

Borowiec, aye	Brassil, not present	Green, aye	Lehane, not present	
Rommel, aye	Rivers, aye	Salvador, aye	Siefert, aye	Windcaller, not present

Motion passes (aye: six, nay: zero, abstain: zero)

Meeting adjourns at 7:30 PM.

Documents used at meeting:

Map displayed by Siefert

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1NGAaDb1sg-qeXa419Gv5yYtqY2mwi3w&usp=sharing>

Copy of Zoom recording of this meeting at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zwp4P0md4Nw&list=PLUyASF8dRTxvgnq3XWapQMvgBT9WDGWR5&index=2&pp=iAQB>

Minutes Submitted by: Tom Siefert, Secretary