

Lake Wyola Boating and Safety Review Committee
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date and Time: **November 26, 2024, at 6:30 PM**

Meeting Location: Online via Zoom (virtual Town Hall)

Attendance (P = present, Abs = absent)

Committee Members:

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

Ad hoc Committee Members:

Fire Department Representative, Abs
Police Department Representative, Abs

Guests Present: Charles Gilliam, Jennifer Wallace

1. Meeting begins

- Meeting called to order by Borowiec at 6:30 PM.

2. Upcoming meeting dates

December 11, 2024, at 6:30 PM

3. Review and approve minutes from November 13, 2024

- Motion by Rivers to approve the minutes of 11/13/2024. Motion seconded by Lehane.

Discussion:

Windcaller: Is the use of the term “data” in the minutes appropriate? This is regarding the note in the minutes that the Shutesbury Police had data about usage of the lake from last summer.

Siefert: The use of the term “data” in the minutes only reflects that the word was used by the Police Chief in the meeting (per Siefert’s meeting notes) and does not make any claim about the data’s existence or quality. Siefert noted that Windcaller’s question about the data will be noted in the current meeting’s minutes.

Vote:

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

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

4. Public comment

Jenifer Wallace: Requested a mechanism for public participation in the committee’s work. Will the committee decide about how to include public participation as a future agenda item? How will the committee solicit public participation before the committee makes its recommendations to the Select Board?

Charles Gilliam: Introduced himself as a repeat guest. He is there to observe and to offer comments from the perspective of a swimmer and paddleboarder.

Borowiec: More information will be on the committee's webpage in the future. Borowiec will check in with the Select Board about processes for including the public.

Siefert: Perhaps a Town Announcement about the committee could help. The committee might consider a survey for the public to fill out.

Rivers: The committee could perhaps include water safety videos on its webpage.

5. Notes from Chair

Borowiec prompted the committee to consider looking over all seven parts of Shutesbury's boating bylaws before editing or voting on individual parts. As of this meeting, Parts 1-5 had been discussed.

6. Continue discussing Lake Wyola Bylaws and proposed recommendations for education

Borowiec: Siefert was going to prepare edited wording for Part 5 of the bylaw (No waterskiing between sunset and sunrise).

Siefert: Presented some slides showing text from bylaws and regulations about waterskiing from the State and from several other MA towns. Siefert noted that the State already prohibits waterskiing at night. Some towns use different time limits from "sunset" and "sunrise" for waterskiing. Some towns also specify how many skiers are allowed at a time. And some towns name other activities similar to water skiing such as tubing. Siefert felt it was too soon to edit Shutesbury's waterskiing bylaw at this time, given the many considerations.

Brassil: Recommended keeping the wording simple on the bylaws that the committee works on.

Rommel: Sunset and sunrise might not be appropriate time markers given the position of the lake.

Lehane: Early and late in the day are usually good times for conditions to waterski.

Windcaller: Perhaps some times or days for specific uses on the lake would be a solution. Speed is also a factor when considering waterskiing, given the speeds needed to tow waterskiers. Maybe the committee will include a trial period in its recommendations.

7. New business, questions

Siefert: Three recordings of the committee's meetings are now up on the Town's youtube channel. The meeting from October 10, 2024, is not yet up.

Windcaller: Can the period for public comment be marked more clearly in future meetings?

Borowiec: More or extra committee meetings might be needed in the future. He would like to get an

initial report from our committee to the Select Board in December. We will concentrate on Parts 6 and 7 of Shutesbury's bylaw for next time.

Gilliam: Can the committee assist him in finding meeting minutes? Siefert said he would help.

10. Conclude

- Motion to adjourn at 7:31 PM. by Siefert. Motion seconded by Rivers.

Vote:

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

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


Meeting adjourns at 7:32 PM.

Documents used at meeting:

Siefert displayed slides with the text from Shutesbury's and other towns' boating bylaws:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1DAUuHv3WdrMPGqKIBXOYtJEUQ_uIDXuNwB3K7dkIzLs/edit?usp=sharing

Copy of Zoom recording of this meeting at:

Click here:  Lake Wyola Boating Safety Committee 11/26/24

Or clickhere:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RiMFYvPwDo&list=PLUyASF8dRTxvgnq3XWapQMvgBT9WDGWR5&index=3&pp=iAQB>

Minutes Submitted by: Tom Siefert, Secretary