

## Meeting Minutes

**Committee or Board:**

Lake Wyola Boating and Safety Review Committee

**Meeting Time, Date, Location:**

6:30 PM, Wednesday, February 26, 2025, online via Zoom

**Attendance of Members:**

Matt Borowiec, Chair	Present	Christine Brassil	Present	David Green	Present
Amy Lehane	Present	Judy Rimmel	Present	Mark E. Rivers	Present
Kathy Salvador	Present	Tom Siefert	Absent	Alexandria Windcaller	Present

**Attendance of Ad Hoc Members:**

Fire Department Representative	Absent	Police Department Representative	Absent	Environmental Police Representative	Absent
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**Guests in Attendance:** Numerous members of the public, Names of people who spoke are indicated.

Roberta's iPhone  
Dennis  
Bart Thompson  
Rory Miller  
Jennifer Wallace  
Rob Kibler

Sandy/Nick Yarmac  
syarmac51@gmail.com  
Mike Stotz  
Tom Miller  
Charles Gilliam  
Briggs/Lehane

Mark Rivers  
Judith Rimmel  
Chris Cummings  
Suzanne Lyon  
Charlene Galenski  
Jean Perkins  
M Gregoire

**Note: The following Meeting Summary was prepared with the Artificial Intelligence feature on Zoom.**

## **Meeting Summary for Lake Wyola Boating & Safety Committee**

Feb 26, 2025 06:25 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 846 0267 1099

Quick recap

The committee experienced brief audio issues at the beginning of the meeting. The committee discussed the upcoming public listening session, the scheduling of future meetings, and the connection with the local environmental police officer. They also discussed the format of meeting minutes, the need for clearer signage at the boat ramp, and the interpretation of laws and the best use of their time. Lastly, they discussed the importance of safety and education regarding the lake's swim zone, the committee's charge to make recommendations to the Select Board, and the confusion in the state law regarding safe speed and distance regulations.

Next steps

Matt to follow up with Tom regarding the status of the 1/8/2025 meeting minutes.

Matt to compile a list of questions about lake laws and regulations to submit to the Shutesbury Police Chief.

Matt to research and bring examples of terminology used in other lake bylaws for safe distances to the next meeting.

Matt to contact the DCR to inquire about the placement of buoys at the state beach.

Kathy to prepare summary-style minutes for the next meeting on March 26th.

Committee members to review Tom Siefert's lake map with distances at the next meeting.

Matt to explore the possibility of inviting the Environmental Police officer to a future meeting for clarification on MA laws.

Committee to discuss and decide on recommendations for signage and education initiatives at the next meeting.

Matt to follow up with Lake Wyola Association regarding the placement and measurement of buoys.

Committee to consider drafting recommendations for the Select Board within the next month regarding education and enforcement initiatives for the upcoming season.

## Summary

### Committee Prepares for Public Listening Session

The committee discussed the upcoming public session scheduled for 3/27/2025 at the Shutesbury Elementary School, with a potential virtual option. The session will be moderated by the Shutesbury town moderator and attendees will have the opportunity to make public comments. The committee also discussed the scheduling of future meetings, with the majority agreeing to hold the next meeting on March 26th. The committee also established a connection with the local environmental police officer, Trevor Bresse, who is responsible for enforcing Massachusetts laws and promoting safety on the lake. The committee also questioned whether other great ponds in Massachusetts have an on-site police boat, but this was not answered in the meeting.

### Meeting Minutes and Educational Topics

The committee discussed the format of meeting minutes, with a consensus emerging to move towards summary minutes which would include a link to the more detailed transcripts. They approved the December 11th minutes but decided to revisit the January 29th minutes due to concerns raised by the police chief. The group then begins to discuss educational topics, starting with potential signage for the lake.

### Boat Ramp Signage and Safety

The committee discussed the need for clearer signage at the boat ramp, particularly regarding the 150-foot buffer zone for swimmers. They considered the use of QR codes to direct people to the state's boating laws, but decided against it due to potential malware risks. The idea of using buoys to mark the 150-foot swimming area was also discussed. The committee agreed on the importance of educating people about the state laws, and suggested mailing out information to the town. There was some confusion about the distance between swimmers and power boats, with some members believing it to be 150 feet from the shore, while others thought it to be 150 feet from the swimmer. The committee agreed to clarify this in their recommendations.

### Improving Education and Safety Rules

The committee discussed the interpretation of laws and the best use of their time. Mark suggested focusing on broader topics such as education and improving safety, rather than nitpicking specific laws. He proposed including specific Massachusetts laws on the Lake's website and improving visual representations of distances to help people understand the rules better. Amy suggested revisiting their notes from earlier meetings on education ideas. Matt agreed to pull up these notes for further discussion.

### Lake Navigation and Buffer Zone

Matt explained the importance of correctly navigating the lake's counterclockwise direction for safety. He also discussed the need for a 150-foot buffer zone around the lake's swimming area. This buffer zone would ensure boaters maintain a safe distance from swimmers and could be marked by buoys at public beaches. Matt also suggested placing signs at the boat ramp and State beach to inform swimmers of the lake rules. Ria raised concerns about the potential hazards of buoys and the enforcement of the 150-foot buffer zone.

### Lake Swim Zone Safety Discussion

In the meeting, Ria and Matt discussed the importance of safety and education regarding the lake's swimming zone. They considered the need for signage and the potential for a committee to make recommendations to the Select Board within a month. Kathy suggested considering focusing on education and enforcement for this year,

then using a longer period for gathering data before making changes to the bylaws. She also proposed looking at a map that Tom Seifert had created to help inform discussions about swimming areas and distances. Mark and Dave shared their knowledge about the placement of buoys and the need for clarification from the environmental police. The conversation ended with plans to invite an environmental police officer to the next meeting for further clarification.

### Clarifying Safe Speed Regulations

In the meeting, Jennifer Wallace clarified the confusion in the state law regarding safe speed and distance regulations, highlighting that there are two sections: safe speed and distance, and headway speed. Matt agreed to bring this up in future discussions. Rob Kibler raised concerns about the potential creation of a zone where only headway speed is allowed if buoys are placed at 150 feet. Matt emphasized the importance of community camaraderie and social responsibility and respect to ensure safety on the lake.

The next meeting will be on 3/26/2025 at 6:30PM

### Record of Votes at Meeting:

1. Motion by Salvador to approve the minutes of 12/11/2024. Motion seconded by Green.

Vote:

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

- Motion passes (aye: eight, nay: zero, abstain/present: zero)


2. Motion to adjourn at approximately 7:35 PM. by Rivers. Motion seconded by Green.

Vote:

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

- Motion passes (aye: eight, nay: zero, abstain/present: zero) Meeting adjourns at approx. 7:40 PM.


### Copy of Zoom recording of this meeting at:

Click here:  Shutesbury Lake Wyola Boating Safety Committee 2/26/25

Or click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DyvCJ4wl68I&list=PLUyASF8dRTxvgnq3XWapQMvgBT9WDGWR5&index=2>

### Copy of unverified Zoom transcript of this meeting at:

Click here:  Zoom Transcript - Unverified - Lake Wyola Boating Safety Committee 2-26-2025.pdf

Or click here: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IbTi-AoYZwoU-pUG0-3j7Tadb2Tw8O\\_u/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1IbTi-AoYZwoU-pUG0-3j7Tadb2Tw8O_u/view?usp=sharing)

Minutes submitted by Tom Siefert, Secretary