

Meeting Minutes

Committee or Board: Lake Wyola Boating and Safety Review Committee

Meeting Time, Date, Location: 6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 26, 2025, online via Zoom

Attendance of Members:

Matt Borowiec, Chair	Present	Christine Brassil	Present	David Green	Present, left approx 7:35pm
Amy Lehane	Present	Judy Rimmel	Present	Mark E. Rivers	Present
Kathy Salvador	Present	Tom Siefert	Present	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: Sandy/Nick Yarmac Ellen McKay Mark Rivers

Next Meeting Dates: **April 9 and April 23**

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

Meeting Summary for Lake Wyola Boating & Safety Committee

Mar 26, 2025 06:23 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada) ID: 827 5125 9312

Quick recap

The committee discussed the upcoming Select Board public listening session, reviewed meeting dates and minutes, and focused on signage for Lake Wyola, emphasizing boating regulations and safety. They also discussed the need for clear guidelines on navigating the lake, the importance of adapting to the situation and using common sense, and the implementation of bylaws. Lastly, they discussed various educational initiatives to improve safety and etiquette on Lake Wyola, the challenges of coordinating boat usage and swimming, and the importance of etiquette and community.

Next steps

Tom to add missing attendance list, vote details, and references to the January 29th and February 26th meeting minutes.

Tom to reach out to the town clerk to confirm if guest names need to be included in the meeting minutes.

Matt to look up and share the verbiage on courteous and safe behavior from other state boating laws at the next meeting.

Matt to take notes at the Select Board's public listening session.

Lake Wyola Association to promote the upcoming Massachusetts boater safety certification requirement at their annual meeting.

Committee to consider recommending to the town the installation of buoys at the boat launch to show 75 feet and 150 foot distances.

Committee to explore creating laminated placards with lake rules and etiquette for distribution to lakeside residents and visitors.

Committee to consider recommending additional signage at the public beach, clubhouse, and on Lake Wyola Association buoys.

Committee to explore the possibility of having an annual boat inspection event with the Coast Guard Reserve.

Summary

Meeting Minutes and Citizen Letters

Town and Kathy discussed the meeting minutes, with Kathy hoping they were okay since she didn't receive any feedback. Town mentioned the need to ask about Citizen letters and the possibility of scanning them in for the next meeting. The meeting was delayed due to some attendees being in motion or having connectivity issues. Once everyone was present, the meeting was called to order.

Select Board Public Listening Session

The committee discusses the upcoming Select Board public listening session, with several members planning to attend. They review meeting dates and minutes, agreeing to make some amendments including adding attendance lists and vote records. The committee approves the minutes from January 29th and February 26th meetings with these amendments. They also decide to include statements about AI-generated content and unverified transcripts in the minutes. The meeting then moves on to continue their discussion on education from the previous session.

Signage for Lake Wyola Regulations

The committee discusses signage for Lake Wyola, focusing on boating regulations and safety. They review a draft design that includes information about the 150-foot no-wake zone around the lake, speed limits, and prohibited activities like jet skiing. The discussion then shifts to swimming regulations, with Judith emphasizing the importance of including rules about maintaining headway speed within 150 feet of swimmers. There is some debate about the exact distances for swimming areas and boat operations, with committee members expressing different interpretations of the bylaws and state regulations. The group agrees that clarification is needed, and the chair plans to consult with environmental police for more precise guidance on how to apply these rules to Lake Wyola's specific dimensions and usage patterns.

Navigating Lake Congestion and Etiquette

The team discussed the need for clear guidelines on navigating the lake, particularly in congested areas. They considered the role of the environmental police and the town's bylaws in setting these guidelines. The idea of promoting lake etiquette and courtesy was also brought up as a way to ensure safety and a pleasant experience for all lake users. The team agreed to further explore these issues and possibly incorporate them into their signage.

Lake Safety and Management Discussion

The team discussed the safety and management of a lake, emphasizing the importance of adapting to the situation and using common sense. They highlighted the need for responsible behavior, such as avoiding busy times or bad weather, and the importance of considering the safety of others. The team also acknowledged that

individual comfort levels and perceptions of risk can vary, and that these factors should be taken into account when making decisions about lake activities.

Consensus on Lake Bylaws Discussed

The meeting involved a discussion about the implementation of bylaws and the need for consensus. Alexandria expressed concerns about the lack of consensus and the need for give and take in the committee. Tom suggested that protection is common sense and that weather events should not be compared to people-generated events. Mark clarified that his perspective was from a recreational standpoint, not commuting. The group agreed to continue the dialogue and consider constraints on safe uses of the lake at certain times for safety.

Boater Safety Certification and Enforcement

Kathy expressed her concern about the overreaction to a recent incident on the lake, suggesting that the focus should be on educating and enforcing existing bylaws rather than making drastic changes. Christine agreed, emphasizing the importance of education and the new boater safety certification requirements. They both acknowledged that there would be differing opinions, but they believed that starting with education and enforcement was a reasonable approach. They also discussed the upcoming changes in Massachusetts requiring boater safety certification for all motorboat operators.

Lake Wyola Safety and Etiquette

The group discusses various educational initiatives to improve safety and etiquette on Lake Wyola. They consider ideas such as signage at key locations, distributing informational cards to residents, and having the Coast Guard Reserve conduct boat inspections. The discussion also touches on the challenges of managing lake usage during peak times, with Matt noting that there are often periods of low activity even on weekends. Alexandria raises concerns about entitlement and how to teach consideration for others, while Christine suggests involving the Lake Wyola Association in distributing information to residents.

Lake Etiquette and Boat Usage Challenges

Town and Judith discussed the challenges of coordinating boat usage and swimming at the lake, emphasizing the importance of etiquette and community. They noted the difficulty in reaching a consensus on rules and regulations, as everyone has their own preferences. Judith expressed concerns about boats cutting in close to swimmers, despite the 150-foot distance law. The group agreed to continue the discussion in the next meeting.

Record of Votes at Meeting:

1. Motion by Salvador to approve the minutes of 1/29/2025. Motion seconded by Lehane.
Vote:

Borowiec, aye	Brassil, aye	Green, aye	Lehane, aye	Rommel, aye
Rivers, aye	Salvador, aye	Siefert, aye	Windcaller, aye	

- Motion passes (aye: nine, nay: zero, abstain/present: zero)
2. Motion by Salvador to approve the minutes of 2/26/2025. Motion seconded by Lehane.
Vote:

Borowiec, aye	Brassil, aye	Green, aye	Lehane, aye	Rommel, aye
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Rivers, aye Salvador, aye Siefert, aye Windcaller, aye

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

3. Motion to adjourn at approximately 7:45 PM. by Rivers. Motion seconded by Salvador.

Vote:

Borowiec, aye Brassil, aye Green, not present Lehane, aye Remmel, aye

Rivers, aye Salvador, aye Siefert, aye Windcaller, aye

- Motion passes (aye: eight, nay: zero, abstain/present: zero) Meeting adjourns at approx. 7:45 PM.

Documents used at meeting:

Slide Show by Borowiec

Click here:  Slide Show used by Borowiec - Meeting of LWBSC March 26 2025

Or click here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gTok-_leVyaGFVORVwsZzGcmtCWktWNy/view?usp=sharing


Copy of Zoom recording of this meeting at:

Click here:  Lake Wyola Boating Safety Committee 3/26/25

Or click here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JJ-2O1-NIY&list=PLUyASF8dRTxvgnq3XWapQMvgBT9WDGWR5&index=1>

Copy of unverified Zoom transcript of this meeting at:

Click here:  Zoom Transcript - Unverified - Lake Wyola Boating Safety Committee 3-26-2025.pdf

Or click here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sXbU9m4l_dBBaoKcy0JBnnmsZneS0ApL/view?usp=sharing

Minutes submitted by Tom Siefert, Secretary