

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 10, 2008

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Lyme Town Hall on September 10, 2008 at 7:00 PM. The following members were present: Fred Holth, Walter Buch, Rob Roach and Elizabeth Sunshine (secretary) of Lyme, and, Dick Smith of Old Lyme. Visitors: Seven members of the community were present.

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction that Rodger Breunig was not present and it was Dick Smith who had reported on the Federation of Lakes meeting.

Dick made a motion to join the Federation of Lakes, Rob 2nd; Motion Passed

Police Patrols:

- Had problems with the monitoring boat- problems with electronic equipment. Question as to who would fix and how money would be allocated. Walt has been the monitor. It's been a relatively safe year. No casualties or and minimal property damage.
- There is no set patrol schedule; patrols are based on police availability.
- Santy Patana works 30 hours a week at the boat launch as a monitor. Rules are posted and he has info to pass out. He says majority of people are cooperative.

DEP has been out last 2 weekends; does not enforce town regulations, only state regulations.

Budget:

There was some discussion on the budget but voting was deferred until December meeting.

Budgeted items:

Weed Control,

In the past, mowing past has taken place in mid August, due to the availability of funds for the fiscal year not being accessible until July 1st. Funding has been deferred this year in order to allow budgeting these funds next summer in June when mowing would be more productive.

Mats: \$1000. They're 10 x 40 and are semi porous membrane with belts in them for introduction of rebar. These mats create a barricade for sunlight for 2 to 3 weeks. The optimal time of deployment is April through early July. We want to deploy the mats in a couple of high density areas with public access as test areas, down by Haynes Park to improve situation of circulation in the area. The deployment of these mats was discussed with folks in Maine, they use sand bags to hold the material down. We would need someone to put the mats down and take them up. The optimum use would be to use one matt over 3 different deployments over 6 week period.

The cost; the base commercial unit is about \$200. Town crews should be able to deploy.

We have \$1000 budgeted for this trial, so we should be able to purchase one and try it in a couple of areas. The hope is to substitute this for hydro-raking due to cost benefits

Questions as to what permits were needed for mat deployment were brought up, Fred responded:

1. Size and location of deployment is more critical than how long down. Old Lyme is requesting Wet Lands permits; location needs to be known first.
2. Lyme does not require permit.
3. Requirements or time limits may need to be set for restoration of habitat. This option was discussed as a possible replacement for hydro raking.

Walt sent a letter about rowing program. Outlining planned sessions for beginners MWF 6-8 am to 6 to 8 pm and masters from 7-9:00. 2:30-4:30 PM for the school team. Some may not have knowledge of rowing rules. There was discussion about an incident where a crew boat collided with a fisherman's boat back to back. Neither saw the other coming. It was suggested that there may be need for a dialogue between the two groups to increase awareness of times, traffic pattern and steering differences (sitting lower and backwards). It was noted that there are standard patterns and race patterns at different time of the year. The crew team would like further discussion by having someone come to their (crew team) meetings.

Suggestions made to increase awareness:

- Signs at the boat house/boat launch and buoy signs on race day.
- Post traffic patterns and hours of usage.
- They do have "chase boats" for tracking time and running interference with other boaters.
- Remind coxens to check the volume of the squawk boxes especially prior to 10:00 am and ask that they not always have the same stopping spots, and or lower volume during early rowing.

It was noted that any boat going less than 6 MPH is not subject to traffic pattern.

Question about if portable VHS could be used between crew and chase boats.

The crew team is interested in putting up signage to mention that it's a green sport and one of our rowers got national recognition in Beijing this past summer.

The crew team invited RLA members to meetings once or twice a year or as needed for open exchange and to give heads up for regards to weed proposal

The DAM

Two years ago, DEP came in to talk about reconstructing the dam one of the requirements of its reconstruction would be the installation of a fish ladder. Much discussion has transpired as to the effect this fish ladder may have on the lake. There is concern that Alewives and Lampreys may come up a fish ladder; these could overcome the current population of the lake.

Walt put together a list of questions:

Fix the dam, requires a fish ladder at the rate of several million dollars.

Question: who owns the dam?

Fred had done a lot of research on different studies in other lakes; he passed out the information.

Comments made: Unintended consequences and impacts are unknown. Alewives, Lampreys (blood suckers) and eels will come up into the lake and exhaust food supplies for natural inhabitants of the lake.

DEP wants to restore lake to “pre-colonial” status. Is that possible with all the houses?

Alewives eat until their food source is gone (not sure plankton or what).

Suggestion: Ask DEP to provide info and studies to have enough information to make informed decisions.

Draw down schedule

A proposal for future draw-downs was suggested that they be scheduled for leap years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Minutes from all RLA meetings are available at www.oldlyme.ct.gov under “minutes”

Respectfully Submitted,



Elizabeth E. Sunshine
Secretary