

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Old Lyme Town Hall on September 15, 2009 at 7:30 PM. The following members were present: Fred Holth, Chairman, Robert Roach, Walter Buch and Elizabeth Sunshine (secretary) of Lyme, and Dick Smith and Roger Breunig and Robert Recor of Old Lyme.

The minutes of the June 10, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved. (Note after the meeting one of the members noted that the date was wrong on the heading and second line of the minutes, the correction was made the minutes have been corrected and resubmitted to the towns and Authority members)

Police Patrols

It was noted that there had not been any real presence of the town police on the lake, and that there was an issue with Lyme not wanting to pay for the police budget because there was not a set schedule for patrolling. Rob stated that he had spoken with Officer Olsen and understood that if it was a sunny day in July or August that the police would be patrolling in the Sound View area because that is where the issues are that they need to handle, not at the lake. Officer Olsen indicated that there was not enough police coverage to have presence on the lake on weekends, as only officers with 800 hours of specialty training can do this job.

Lake Monitor

Rob stated that Walter had been patrolling the lake all summer. Walter stated that he did a lot of talking to people regarding the lake rules. He stated that the traffic pattern in the book is often not observed by boats and more often by jet skis. He noted that some of the jet skis are greater than 135hp and very fast. Walter mentioned that there were a couple of boats that liked to run after sunset and have disregarded his request to stop at sunset. The rules are there for a reason visibility is low people like to kayak in the early evening when the waters are calm and collisions are a far greater risk with low visibility. It was noted that the traffic on the lake has been less than in previous years and the vast majority of boaters follow the rules once they know them.

Launch Patrol

It was noted that the person at the launch was doing a great job and that he had put in about 260 hours of monitoring this summer. Liz mentioned that if we could have cards made up with some of the lake policies that he could hand to each person putting a boat in the water it may help with newcomer awareness of traffic patterns and restrictions.

RLA Boat

Walter questioned if there is a possibility of getting a dedicated boat for the Authority. After discussion it was decided that we would check into Reynolds and other marinas to see if anyone was willing to donate a boat or had a very inexpensive one.

Bottom Blankets

Lyme did pay for \$1,000.00 for 5 bottom blankets that were placed in the Haines Park area. The blankets were deployed mid August and can be moved after 30 + days. We will revisit their effectiveness next meeting. These mats work by blocking the sunlight for the weeds and kills the stem and the root system. If they prove to be an effective weed control than we will need many more to cover the affected areas of the lake. Rob said that they will work well for the private homeowner as one or two blankets will cover a good size swim area. Each mat weighs approx 40 lbs and can be weighted down with strips of rebar. Lyme is not requiring a permit for their use. Old Lyme has given authorization for their use in the lake. They are on the web at Lake Bottom blanket if anyone is looking for more information

The chair noted that he understood over 43 linear miles of bottom blankets have been used on the Finger Lakes and it seems to be innocuous to the lake as opposed to chemicals and or incurring the expense and after effects of fragmentation from hydro raking. They have found it effective for the homeowners improving their use and enjoyment of their property at a minimal cost.

Weed Proliferation

The chair stated he had received calls regarding the proliferation of Southern Nyad. David Evers of the West Shore Association brought bags of sample stating it was all over the right-of-ways and shallow shorelines. Dave stated that from his research this particular plant thrives on fragmentation carrying its seeds to new areas when cut.

Hydro-raking

Hydro-raking was brought up by a member of the public. It was discussed and explained that the RLA has never hydro-raked that only private individuals had done this in 2007. The RLA acted as a gathering vehicle to get the individuals to the contractor. The problem with the hydro-raking is the losses through the rake and fragmentation while pulling the weeds and muck are high and transplantation of the weed is high.

Drawdown

Drawdown for wall repair and weed control was discussed. It was stated that when the water is drawn down there are a few complaints of no water in shallow wells. Discussion went on to say that when these houses were built back in the 1950's they were mostly summer cottages. Now that most have been converted into year round homes they have much greater use of water with laundry, dishwashers etc. In addition the original shallow dug wells for the cottages fills in over the years with sediment. There are only a handful of these wells left because most have either drilled appropriate wells for their needs or dug their shallow wells deeper. In the past these calls have been fielded by Dick Smith of the RLA however it was noted that the appropriate person to handle these calls in the future is the Town Sanitarian George Caukins.

A motion was made by Walter Buch and 2nd by Rob Roach to draw the lake down 20 inches beginning October 15, 2009. With the option do draw down an additional 4 inches if we get a very cold winter to abate weed growth.

The vote was unanimous in favor.

Dam Repair

The dam repair project has been delayed due to lack of funding. It is our understanding that the funding is still in bonding commission and may remain their indefinitely.

Geese Fecal Matter

The Goose population has increased this year. The Islands have a huge amount of bird dung and the shallow areas around the lake. The lady with the dog and egg shaking efforts are still in effect. **Please don't feed the geese!!!**

Dredging

George James of the Conservation Commission sent a draft letter to Fred for input from the RLA regarding a long term plan for the lake, outlining the recent history of the lake. This letter offered dredging as the optimal choice for a permanent weed control, indicating that a severe lake drawdown and mechanical removal of silt and gravel. The chair read a portion of the letter and requested input. There was discussion of a working group including members of the inland wetland, conservation commission, water pollution control authority, planning and zoning commission and the Rogers Lake Authority to work and research the possibility of dredging and to improve to raise awareness as a dredging project would require a tremendous effort in research and resources. Rob Recor and Rob Roach volunteered to contact IW, CC, and WPCA in an attempt to create a cross commission community to explore options for dredging the lake.

Ne w Business

The chair asked for any new business. There was a request from a member of the audience that the RLA have more communication with area residents. A suggestion of post cards with pertinent information and education to area residents possibly posting meeting times and dates.

The meeting was adjourned, ending at approximately 9:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



Elizabeth Sunshine
Secretary for RLA