

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MARCH 15, 2011

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Lyme Town Hall at 7:30 pm on March 15, 2011. The following members were present: Fred Holth, Chairman, and Elizabeth Sunshine (Secretary) of Lyme, Dick Smith and Robert Recor, and Tom Baehr of Old Lyme and approximately 5 residents.

The chair called the meeting to order at approx 7:37 pm. The first order of business being to welcome new Member Tom Baehr and thank Roger Breunig for his years of service to the Authority.

Budget

The Chair shared information that the Old Lyme Board of Finance has tentatively approved only \$6,325.00 of the \$11,010.00 requested. The chair suggested that the board prioritize the items on the proposed budget. Suggested modifications were seeking capital funds for some line items, shortening the monitoring and patrolling season, and eliminating education and media funding and looking to volunteers to help. Since the first half of the forthcoming summer will be financed by the current budget it is hoped that some carryover of funds by curtailing some expenses in early summer may be of benefit. It was suggested that an approach be made by the Old Lyme members of the Authority to the Finance Board in Old Lyme might be of benefit. The June meeting will consider the budget as it must be finally constituted. It was decided that proceeding with George Knocklein's work would be a priority.

Girl Scout Gold Award Project

Guest Speaker Sarah Kukich a girl scout from East Lyme presented a project to the Authority to be held in August of 2011. Sarah has taken on a project which has a threefold dynamic; she intends to host a weekend gathering at Haynes park to help in environmental cleanup of the area, introduce crew and rowing association members to home owners around the lake to create comrodery and use the opportunity of the gatherings for safety education on the lake. Sarah intends to invite homeowners crew and rowing association members and members of the community at large who enjoy the lake. She has been working to get the endorsements of the DEP, OLRA, RLA, Health of the lake organization, and the Girls Scouts of America and to work together with all these agencies and more, to promote a weekend of environmental cleanup of the lake and beach front, safety education on the lake and create comrodery between groups using the lake and enjoy a regatta style event.

After discussion, Dick Smith, made a motion which was seconded by Robert Recor to endorse same in writing and support the project. The vote passed by Unanimous decision.

OLRA

Chris McCawley spoke on behalf of the Old Lyme Rowing Association. He questioned what the plan was regarding water flow for the crew season. Dick responded that in the winter the dam is opened when the water level is high or is expected to rise significantly, such as heavy rains

expected or large melts or thaw. During the summer however was rarely if ever open; the water subsidence in the lake is due to evaporation and the dam leaking.

Mr. McCawley spoke of a program that the OLRA will be taking part in from June 20th to July 10th where they will be hosting approx twenty rowers from across the US to participate in the US Rowing Development Program. The members are all looking forward to a great season. Mr. McCawley also pledged the support and endorsement of the OLRA people and equipment to Sarah's Project in August.

Committee for the Health of Rogers Lake

Maureen Plumleigh spoke for the Committee for the Health of Rogers Lake and explained a program that would possibly work well with the two other groups who presented their programs. It is an effort to do some barrier planting in the areas around two of the main access ways to the lake from the association land, the idea being that doing some barrier planting would help to divert runoff water from carrying pollutants straight into the lake. Planting a rain garden would allow the rainwater to soak into the ground thereby getting filtered through the ground prior to reentering the lake. An additional, positive side effect of the rain garden is it discourages geese traffic. Maureen has 6 Master Gardiners on board and has requested \$2,000.00 for plants. She is looking for support and help with this project.

After discussion a motion made by the Chair and seconded by Robert Recor to enthusiastically endorse this project. The motion was passed by Unanimous vote.

Policing

A motion was made by Robert Recor that Dick Smith and possibly on other lake resident pursue the possibility of taking the 850 hr marine training course required by DEP to become a lake patrolman. This would eliminate the need for a launch monitor and lake monitor both of which have limited powers of enforcement. Dick agreed to approach Old Lyme First Selectman Matthew Griswold to find avenues for finance of the training.

The Chair stated that he had received a letter outlining the DEP requirements for allowing us to continue to have a launch monitor. The Chair read the requirements and there was a motion put forth by Fred Seconded by Tom Baehr with a Unanimous vote that followed to accept the DEP requirements in order to continue to have a launch monitor.

The meeting was adjourned, ending at approximately 9:03 P.M.

Respectfully submitted



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