

Lake Zoar Authority

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Member Towns

Monroe-Newtown-Oxford-Southbury

The regular meeting of the Lake Zoar Authority was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

Commissioners Present:

Barbara McWilliams, Chairwoman
John Downs
James Galarneau
Tim Glover
Dennis Lawler
Jerry Kozera
John Morin
Lesley Pires
Mark Saksa
Dick Speer

Absent:

Tony Fischetti

Call to Order

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from the February 6, 2024 meetings was made by Dick Speer seconded by Dennis Lawler; the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported current treasury balances. The current account balances with cash on hand equal \$112,400.00. There is a \$5,000 deposit paid to Diamond Marine for the new boat. A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Dennis Lawler seconded by Jerry Kozera, the motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report:

None.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:

James Galarneau reported on survey results from the Lake Zoar authority Facebook page to gauge public interest in a LZA alert system. Residents reported they would like to receive alerts on safety, water levels, debris, special events, weather, etc. James is willing to manage a database of contacts. Dennis Lawler reported there are some text alert services that are reasonably priced. Jerry Kozera reported he did contact the Newtown code red vendor, "On Solve," and the supplier offers services starting at \$1,500 and would be willing to present products over Zoom. John Downs reported that FirstLight has an existing database in place to alert residents of the fluctuating water levels.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:

Chairperson Barbara McWilliams reported that debris removed from the river and piled in Oxford waterfront will need to be removed. Barbara reported that Pond and Lake has secured a permit from the CT DEEP for this season's weed treatment. John Morin reported that the bridge water section of Lake Lillinonah near poison ivy island has a patch of hydrilla. Pond and Lake is working on a treatment plan for this species. Pond and Lake predicts this treatment will reduce risk to Lake Zoar downstream. The watershed is being searched for more hydrilla sources. John expressed concerns regarding reducing vegetation in the river during weed treatment if Lake Zoar may already be low in vegetation abundance. John will investigate this further. John reported that reducing the invasive weeds early in the season allows more space for natural vegetation to flourish. The CT DEEP will also prioritize hydrilla permits this year. The herbicide sonar fluridone can be used at a rate of 5ppb to treat hydrilla. John also reported the goal is to treat the lake for weeds once the water temperature reaches 55 degrees, but he will inquire about temperature monitoring.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:

John Morin will contact WCSU's Wong Lab to inquire about renewing cyanobacteria monitoring services for this season.

Boats and Motors Report:

Dick Speer reported that the boats will be in the water earlier this year. The batteries will be charged this week and they will be in the water as soon as weather permits. A new boat may be purchased in July. Dick and Jerry will request bids for lighting and lettering on the new boat.

Grants:

A \$5,000 grant is available from FirstLight for education on the lake. Barbara suggested applying for the grant for use towards the life jacket loaner program.

Unfinished Business:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported that commissioner Tony Fischetti will assume Treasury responsibilities on March 20, 2024.

John Morin reported that he has filled out a permit for the CT DEEP for lighting on the bridge abutments at Silver Bridge and will submit the application. John reported that the CT DEEP suggested red and green lights. Dick reported the hazard lights are required to be all red and will check the inland waterway rules, since they are not a navigational aid, they are a warning of danger. John will request more information.

New Business

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams will share information on hydrilla contamination from the CT DEEP and will request more information on the invasive species sticker required by CT DEEP beginning in October. Discussion was had regarding enforcing pre-rinsing boats at the boat launch without a water supply, and how to prevent boats from entering the lake that are not within regulation. Barbara is waiting for more information from the CT DEEP.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Lawler and seconded by Dick Speer, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 7:53pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Pires
Secretary

The minutes are not considered official until approved at the next regular meeting of the Lake Zoar Authority to be held on Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Oxford Town Hall.