

Lake Management Advisory Committee

July 10, 2024

Minutes of the Meeting

Yeoman's Hall

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Michael Gnazzo Wednesday July 10, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

Present: Michael Gnazzo, Robert Millerd, Noreen Farrington, Mike Scalise, Mary Roickle, Greg Stryker, David Vanderbilt, Henry Beck

Absent: James Santos, Robert Powell

Excused: Phyllis Dunn

Minutes: Michael Gnazzo called for a motion to accept the May Minutes.

Regarding: Mary Roickle's motion last month proposing LMAC advise the Board of Selectman to review and accept all three TRC Tasks as one proposal was amended to 3 separate motions. A sense of urgency to proceed quickly is a factor in the low cost TRC bid received, bid is dependent on being able to perform the tasks in conjunction with their normal visits. Asking the Selectman to authorize out of contingency to fund. This proposal is outside of the present budget.

Motion to accept

Noreen Farrington, 2nd Greg Stryker.

Motion Carried

Guest Speakers: None

Audience of Citizens: Ann Dunnack, Lake rd. Joel Mrosek Sleepy Hollow rd.

Communications: Letter from Phyllis Dunn regarding lake water level.

The Dam committee will act as a subcommittee in working with a Hydrologist to determine the effects of the maintenance of the water level. At our previous meeting it was determined that the water level would be maintained under 4" above normal level rather than 6" above normal water level while the issue is investigated. The water level is monitored every 2-3 days and is maintained at no more than 2". This issue was recommended to be tabled until we can receive expert advice.

Other conditions that need to be taken into consideration toward water level maintenance and erosion are:

- Condition of walls
- Rainfall
- Ground absorption
- Evaporation

LMAC here to advise on what is best for the lake not necessarily what is best for property owners. Promoting wall repair and working with permit regulations on wall construction and repair was suggested.

Trees were reported hanging over the boat ramp making it difficult to remove sailboats.

Committee Reports:

Permit Review:

Saune and Jim Santos, New Raft. Plans were reviewed, the raft is already in place but is changing ownership. All parties agree, BOS to be advised to approve.

Michael Hartling, 2 new buoys to be installed. LMAC needs a better diagram as to position, abutting property lines and length of frontage. The permit will require a site visit and Mr. Hartling will be notified of required changes.

Dam:

Water level +2"

Water temperature 83 degrees

Weep Holes 15% running clear.

Grass is very long.

A request was made to remind the town that cut grass should not enter the lake. The Erdony rd. mowing was observed cutting grass on the lake side of the road. Cutting grass on the lake side is not supposed to occur. Mary Roickle to investigate.

Gate repair: Proposals still waiting.

Dam Emergency Plan: Nothing to Report

Water Quality: More than normal phosphorus at the bottom, water clarity high.

Fishing: A copy of the fishing report was requested. A new electro fishing event will take place to better duplicate the 2004 event.

Access Safety and Regulations:

Rte. 87 200 HP Chaparral CT 4662 BM was reported to have been mistakenly allowed on the lake by presenting a document that describes a modification to the engine that reduced the horsepower to an acceptable range. The acceptance of this vessel into the lake is not in line with the ordinance that is in place. Allowing modifications may open the door to others attempting to find loopholes in the ordinance.

Mary Roickle made the Motion to: Remind the BOS of the Town Ordinance Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake Section 190-12 C that, "No person shall operate on the waters of Columbia Lake, a boat with an outboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 80, or a boat with an inboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 150. As admitted by the owner the Chaparral watercraft registered as CT 4662 BN possesses a 200 HP engine on the lake which exceeds the 150 HP limit. The actual manufacturers horsepower rating remains the governing rule for this ordinance since 1995. The BOS must alert the owner that the 200 HP Chaparral CT 4662 BN must be removed from Columbia Lake immediately. If the watercraft stays on the lake a fine of \$50.00 per day should be assessed each day the vessel remains on Columbia Lake. Robert Millerd 2nd, Motion carried.

Problem at the beach.

Lifeguards leave at 6:00pm the Marine Patrol at sunset. There are sometimes 30 to 60 people at the beach after hours and not all of them are Beach Pass carrying Columbia residents. Mark has requested some advice as to what may be done to curtail this activity.

Suggestions:

- Lock the Gate after hours,
- Provide parking stickers with beach passes and have cars ticketed if sticker is not in place.
- Extend Marine patrol hours to perform parking lot attendant duties.
- Close Beach at sunset
- Investigate Coventry Lake and Lake Pocotopaug to see if they have answers to this issue.

Watershed/Watershed Management Plan:

Three individual TRC Watershed Investigative Proposals on the agenda for Tuesdays BOS meeting.

Storm Water Culverts: Nothing to report

Budget Review: Nothing to report

Open Business:

Abundant Weed concern

Dave Vanderbilt reported that a possible reason for the increase in the weeds may be because of the lack of deep freeze over the past couple of winters. His suggestion was to maintain the draw down level at 6 feet for a longer period.

Geese monitoring

It was reported that green laser light and dog sounding speakers scare the geese away.

Update gate repair

Waiting proposal

Lake Construction

The pavilion posts are out being powder coated at the vendors; we should have them soon. Construction should be starting next week.

Boat launch -west side area

Town Administrator in process of hiring a new Facilities Director who will take on responsibility for the improvements to the west side of the boat ramp.

Update on Rock Island formation 174 Rt 87

The owner said he would remove it, waiting for the draw down to confirm.

Update Esposito/Minicucci, Woodland Terrace

Update excel permit link and software

Along with a \$1000 one-time license fee, there will be incremental costs to the town. Robert Millerd is looking to find the right person to make the necessary connections.

Subcommittee to revisit Dobrush site work

Update Watershed Investigation Proposal

Proposal was amended to 3 separate motions

Excel permit link:

Along with a \$1000 one-time license fee, there will be incremental costs to the town. Robert Millerd is looking to find the right person to make the necessary connections.

New Business:

Lake Level Management Investigation
Rafts and Moorings

Michael Gnazzo called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn Robert Millerd, 2nd Greg Stryker

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Submitted by Michael Scalise