

Lake Zoar Authority

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Member Towns

Monroe-Newton-Oxford-Southbury

The regular meeting of the Lake Zoar Authority was held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Community Center.

Commissioners Present:
Barbara McWilliams, Chairwoman
John Downs
James Galarneau
Tim Glover
Dennis Lawler
John Morin
Mark Saksa
Dick Speer

Absent:
Jerry Kozera
Lesley Pires

Call to Order

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from the October 3, 2023 meetings was made by Dennis Lawler, seconded by Dick Speer; the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported the current account balances with cash on hand equal \$126,634.57

A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Dennis Lawler, seconded by John Morin, the motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report:

Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported that patrol coverage was provided a total of 2 times in October. PFD's are required to be worn while kayaking after October 1st. 19 stops were made for persons not wearing PFD's in the water while in kayaks. Two boat tows were conducted as a "public assistance". Some patrols were cancelled due to inclement weather.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:

Dennis Lawler reported that the new website is up and running.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:

Chairperson Barb McWilliams reported that she attended a meeting via phone regarding Hydrilla, an invasive weed found in neighboring lakes in the area. More info to follow after future meetings are scheduled. There is a chance that DEEP may supplement costs to treat.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:

John Morin reported that there were not any microcystin samples taken in September by WCSU. The last 2 samples were taken in 08/23 and 08/30 for water quality monitoring.

Boats and Motors Report:

Dick Speer reported that boat #2 is out of the water & shrink wrapped. There is approximately a \$20k difference in the 2 types of boats that are being considered for purchase as the second new boat. Dan Semosky said he will be contacting Fred Hurley from Newtown DPW to assist with relocating and storing of the boats for winter.

Grants:

None.

Bylaws:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported that the boat tours of the lake with First Light Representatives were conducted and that there are still issues not being addressed by First Light regarding removal of hazards and debris in a variety of locations. She is also working with DEEP in pursuing a solution for hazard markers by the Shepaug Dam.

New Business

Chairperson Barb McWilliams Proposed a budget and took recommendations from the fellow commissioners to approve. There may need to be a "one time ask" of the towns to be able to purchase a second boat. The finalized 2024-2025 Budget Proposal should be ready for presentation to the LZA Commission for the December meeting.

Another winter project would be working with our 4 towns to help create an emergency call/text program to notify residents of problems on the lake. For example, high water levels, major debris, etc.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Lawler and seconded by Mark Saska. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Downs
Acting Secretary

The minutes are not considered official until approved at the next regular meeting of the Lake Zoar Authority to be held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Oxford Town Hall.