

Lake Zoar Authority

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Member Towns

Monroe-Newtown-Oxford-Southbury

The regular meeting of the Lake Zoar Authority was held on Monday, August 5, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Oxford Town Hall.

Commissioners Present:

Barbara McWilliams, Chairwoman
John Downs
Tony Fischetti
James Galarneau
Tim Glover
Jerry Kozera
Lesley Pires
Dick Speer

Absent:

Mark Saksa
Dennis Lawler
John Morin

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 July 1, 2024 meetings was made by Tony Fischetti seconded by Tim Glover; the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

A Newtown resident was in attendance and a reporter from the Newtown Bee.

Treasurer's Report:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported current treasury balances with cash on hand equaling \$158,860.92. Outstanding balances include \$1,550 for signage, approximately \$9,000 for communications, and \$1,000 in repairs for boat #1. In total, the new boat cost approximately \$91,000. A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Tim Glover, seconded by Dick Speer, the motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report:

Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported that for the month of July there were 22 patrols with 4 during concerts at Jackson's Cove. There were 4 towed boats, 48 safety inspections, 5 issued infractions with fines, and 112 other total enforcements, including not having PFDs, not wearing PFDs, no lights at night, on jet ski at night, and lack of registration stickers. A buoy at the Pomperaug river was missing again but located south of 84 near a resident dock. It was transported and reinstalled back to the line by marine patrol. On Friday July 12 patrol officers noticed a shed on fire at 62 Pine Rock and the fire department was called and extinguished the fire. There is a potential new driver from Monroe with an extensive history of public service and vessel operation currently being interviewed.

Thirty year old Alyssa Mackinnon drowned while tethered to her paddleboard in Seymour in the Housatonic River on August 1st without a personal flotation device on board. Dan expressed it is imperative that every passenger on a

vessel or personal watercraft (PWC) have a life jacket on board according to state law, and must wear them from October 1 through May 31 each year. In addition, every child 13 or younger on any vessel or PWC must wear a life jacket all year round.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:

James Galarneau and Barbara McWilliams reported there has been an influx of legitimate registrations for the online newsletter.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported that there is no documented hydrilla in Lake Zoar. If residents have spotted it, they need to photograph it and send its location directly to her at bmcwilliams@lakezoarauthority.org so she can alert FirstLight. People should not pull the plant as it will spread. A CT DEEP permit to professionally treat the weed will be sought in coordination with FirstLight and Pond and Lake.

In regards to lack of weed treatment this season, Barbara reiterated that FirstLight was unable to comply with the agreed herbicide application time frame. In 2023 the LZA decided weed treatment will not commence after May 15th in order to prevent undesirable biomass which will further deplete oxygen levels in the water column and promote cyanobacteria growth.

Barbara reported she contacted the CT DEEP regarding the implementation of a carp program in Lake Zoar. The CT DEEP explained it is not possible as Lake Zoar is a river, not an enclosed body of water, and the carp cannot be physically contained.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:

Tim Glover reported that Jackson Cove was closed for two days during the last week of July for swimming by the Housatonic valley health district for high e coli levels.

All water samples collected for the WCSU water quality monitoring program remain under the microcystin threshold of 8.0 parts per billion (ppb; µg/L) for recreational waters (sites include Eichler's Cove, Jackson's Cove, Kettle town State Park, the Shepaug Dam, the Pootatuck River inlet to Lake Zoar, the Pomperaug River near the Audubon Society, the Sandbar, Lakeside Marina, and Frenches Cove).

Boats and Motors Report:

Dick Speer reported that Lakeside Marina will continue to store the boats but repairs will be done by Lorenzo Auto and Truck in Monroe. The tow bar on boat #1 was torn out from a weakness in the mount and will be repaired at no cost by Diamond Marine. The engine will be serviced at the same time. Boat #2 will have an engine service when boat #1 is back in the water.

Grants:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Barbara McWilliams reported that the CT DEEP is planning to install replacement hazard buoys in the missing markers above the Steel bridge and in the Southbury side south of 84. The permitted navigational lights marking the two abandoned bridge abutments on Lake Zoar in Newtown and Southbury will be installed this season, purchase price quotes are being obtained.

New Business:

Barbara McWilliams reported the lifejacket donation station at the Southbury boat launch was broken into over the week of July 18th and eight lifejackets and a canopy tent were stolen. The LZA has received interest in public support for replacing the jackets over social media. The Southbury police received the complaint and will patrol the area.

An executive session was held.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Tony Fischetti seconded by Dick Speer, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 8:16pm.

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 September 10, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Southbury Town Hall.