

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, November 12, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Community Center.

Commissioners Present:

Barbara McWilliams
James Galarneau
Tony Fischetti
Jerry Kozera
Dennis Lawler
Lesley Pires
Dick Speer
Avi Veeraraghav

Absent:

Tim Glover
John Downs
John Morin
Mark Saksa

Call to Order

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from the October 08, 2024 meetings was made by Dennis Lawler seconded by Tony Fischetti; the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported current treasury balances with cash on hand equaling \$97,541.50 with open invoices pending for overwintering boat fees and fuel. The finance committee will be working on a 2024-2025 budget audit and the new budget for the 2025 -2026 fiscal year. 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:

Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported for the month of October there was one patrol with 4 warnings, 12 inspections, and 1 boat tow. In total for the 2024 patrol season, there were 77 patrols with 4 Oxford concerts, and 4 flood related clean up patrols. For enforcement, there were 507 inspections, 366 warnings and 14 written infractions (fines / court appearances). There were 33 disabled boat tows. The PFD program helped with providing life jackets but many passengers were still without. Jet Skis are frequently inspected and more are found to be lacking registration and operation licenses. Patrol boats frequently patrolled high density areas to deter illegal operations. There still needs to be attention to servicing the buoys and preventing fishermen at the Shepaug Dam.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:

Dennis Lawler reported he will be expiring his term in January and James will be taking over the IT duties. A committee will be formed to reorganize tasks and responsibilities. Training is planned.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:

Commissioners want to be prepared to discuss the weed treatment plan for the 2025 season at the January meeting.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:

Barbara McWilliams reported on behalf of Tim Glover, that Tim met with Dr. Pinou of WCSU today, to begin coordinating microcystin testing with the university for the 2025 season, likely under Dr. Ghada Hafez's lab. A permanent WCSU water quality monitoring program replacement is not in place but continued updates will be provided.

Boats and Motors Report:

Dick Speer reported all the boats are winterized and shrink wrapped. Boat #1 is repaired and reinforced well. Boat #2 needs new fuel lines and a new filter but was already wrapped, it will be serviced in the spring. Boat #3 will have electrical work completed in the spring.

Grants:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Newtown public works picked up the shed life jacket shed at the Southbury boat launch and will store it for the winter.

New Business:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported she met with FirstLight representatives to discuss debris removal that was neglected this season due to distractions from other bulk flood debris removal. FirstLight has an agreement in place with FERC that states they will provide 35 days of debris removal between Lak Zoar and Lake Lillinonah each year. FirstLight reports they will prioritize Lake Zoar clean up in the spring.

The Shepaug Dam barrier will be installed by FirstLight by May 15, 2025.

FirstLight will request a CT DEEP Permit for a second debris removal dump site near the Southbury boat launch.

Jerry Kozera is tasked with pricing and purchasing LED lights for the safety lights to be installed on the old bridge bollards next to the silver bridge.

There was a public notice entered that a public information meeting will be held on November 20th, 2024 at 6 pm at the Newtown Municipal Center at 3 Primrose St to discuss the Slalom waterski course permit application.

A discussion was had regarding using the oldest boat in the water on a regular basis during the new season. The boat is still on the insurance policy. The consensus was to use the boat for one season and reevaluate its need, if it is not needed, it can be sold for more value than its prior trade in appraisal.

The member attendance policy was read from the bylaws to remind commissioners that attendance is always acceptable electronically, commissioners may not miss more than three consecutive meetings, or four meetings in a year. Poor performance will result in a communication from the Authority to the Chief Administrator of the municipality concerned outlining the Authority's recommendation for replacement and a copy will be sent to the

appointed member.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dennis Lawler, seconded by Dick Speer, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 7:44pm.

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 December 03, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Oxford Town Hall.