

# 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, September 9, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Southbury Town Hall.

### Commissioners Present:

Thelma Chen  
John Downs  
James Galarneau  
Tony Fischetti  
Jerry Kozera  
John Morin  
Lesley Pires  
Dick Speer  
Avi Veeraraghav

### Absent:

Barbara McWilliams  
Tim Glover  
Bruce Lafky

### Call to Order

Vice Chairman John Morin called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

### Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from the August 4, 2025 meeting was made by Tony Fischetti; seconded by Dick Speer; the motion was passed unanimously.

### Public Comments:

Dan O'Donnell from Newtown spoke on behalf of the Lake Zoar Homeowners Rights Association (LZHRA). He thanked commissioners for dedication to volunteer work. Dan announced the LZHRA is addressing ongoing complaints by resident property owners against FirstLight Power to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and may seek further LZA support in the near future. Dan commented that in the last few years he has noted the best water quality on the lake but the ecology has changed this year. As an engineer himself, he is available for volunteer support, as well as fellow engineer Todd Martin, as support to the water quality committee as non-voting volunteer members.

A resident from Sandyhook commented that he appreciated the water quality records have been posted but is concerned that the samples are taken at Rosa Beach but marked as the Sandbar, and wondered if the labeling could be more specific.

A second member from Sandyhook noted the first early weed treatment was successful but was curious about a second treatment. He was also interested about the Aquatic Invasive Species Stamp and if funding from that state collected fee is available to the LZA in grant form. He also questioned water quality issues with silting making water depth too shallow in front of residential shorelines

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Avi Veeraraghav reported current treasury balances with cash on hand equaling \$119,616.88. Monroe has an agreed balance on hand of \$6,200 to be collected at a later date. A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Thelma Chen, seconded by James Galarneau, the motion was passed unanimously.

**Marine Patrol Report:**

Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported there was a 911 call today reporting a jet skier thrown north of the Pomperaug and stranded in the water. The person was kept afloat by wearing PFD. The state police barracks called marine patrol and the person was successfully rescued.

For the month of August, there were 23 patrols with Newtown, Oxford, Monroe, and CT DEEP (2 days). CT DEEP also spent two days checking for invasive species at the state boat launch. Every vessel that was inspected had the IAS stamp. There were five evening patrols, with two Oxford concerts and three Friday evening patrols. During the month there were 54 enforcements with the majority being for no PFDs (mostly on paddle devices). There were 88 boat inspections and 11 tows.

Dan noted that when power production starts in the evening, large debris is stirred up and visible at the surface. Patrol boats towed large logs with prop marks to reduce further risk to boaters. Life jackers have been supplied for those in need this season and most have been returned but some are still missing.

**Publicity/ Public Awareness:**

Avi Veerarahay reported that public awareness is still focused on finding life jacket stand volunteers for next year.

James Galarneau reported the website is up to date with water quality information including test results and warnings. James reported he and Lesley Pires are working on an Algae Bloom informational page specific to Lake Zoar. The page is in the research and design phase. Useful educational material and testing data will be shared. Some focuses will include the basics of algae bloom ecology, internal and external nutrient sources, impacts of the hydroelectric project, toxicity, health risks, public action, the LZA's role, the monitoring program, and how to contact the LZA. James announced he has joined the Water Quality Monitoring Committee in support of this publicity initiative.

**Water Quality****Weed Treatment Committee:**

Tony Fischetti proposed organizing a comprehensive weed treatment plan to address the invasive weeds which persisted into the late recreational season. Early treatment targeted curly leaf weed which germinates early in May, but milfoil weed germinates in June and remains present. Hydrilla was not identified in Lake Zoar this season. If identified, treatment is needed through October. Tony suggested vendor Pond and Lake present a comprehensive weed treatment plan at next month's meeting, as a survey was completed three weeks ago. Commissioners agreed and requested a second opinion following the presentation. Commissioners discussed alternative treatments such as sterile carp, a winter draw down, and mechanical aeration. Tony and John Morin will investigate permits with help of several volunteers. Water depth concerns were also raised, being that silt build up reduces water depth and can potentially accelerate aquatic growth. Dredging opportunities will be explored. A public survey will also be drafted with the help of volunteers.

**Water Quality Monitoring Committee:**

John Morin reported the WCSU Cyanobacteria Monitoring Program concluded sampling for the season last month on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Those results reported on August 29<sup>th</sup> showed the Sandbar and Lakeside Marina were over the U.S. EPA and CT DPH recommended threshold of 8.0 parts per billion (ppb; µg/L) for recreational waters, at 19.808 ppb and 8.082 ppb respectively. All water quality monitoring results have been reported on the LZA website.

**Boats and Motors Report:**

Dick Speer reported that two patrol boats will be taken out of the water as patrol are cut. One boat will be left in the water in working order through October.

**Grants:**

None.

**Unfinished Business:**

None.

**New Business:**

None.

**Adjournment**

With no further business, Vice Chairman John Morin adjourned the meeting at 8:12pm.

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 October 7, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Monroe Town Hall.