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

Commissioners Present:
Barbara McWilliams
Thelma Chen
John Downs
Tim Glover
Bruce Lafky
Jerry Kozera
John Morin
Lesley Pires
Dick Speer
Avi Veeraraghav

Absent:
James Galarneau
Tony Fischetti

Call to Order
Vice Chairman John Morin called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Secretary's Report:
A motion to accept the minutes from the September 9, 2025 meeting was made by John Downs; seconded by Bruce Lafky; the motion was passed unanimously.

Accessibility to the LZA attendance policy, regular meeting schedule, committee list, Bylaws & Roberts rules of Order were reviewed.

Public Comments:
None

Treasurer's Report:
Treasurer Avi Veeraraghav reported current treasury balances with cash on hand equaling $112,881.33. Monroe still has an outstanding balance of $6,200. A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Dick Speer, seconded by Lesley Pires, the motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report:
Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported for the month of September there 7 patrols by Monroe and Newtown PD with 16 enforcements reminding boaters to carry PFDs in their personal water crafts. After October 1, all boaters must wear PFDs, and a majority were this past weekend. There were 2 disabled boat tows, and 38 total inspections.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:
Avi Veeraraghay reported that public awareness is still focused on finding life jacket stand volunteers for next year.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:
Zach Davis from Pond and Lake presented information about weed control options specific to Lake Zoar. Zach explained that a typical approach would see the tribune herbicide diquat application treat curly leaf pond weed by the first week of June, then eurasian milfoil the second or third week of June, and then smaller spot treatments mid-season where there is high recreational activity or nutrient loading. Filamentous algae can also be treated with tribune but can return with hot weather.

This past season, curly leaf pond weed was treated in 50 acres on Lake Zoar on May 1st. Commissioners discussed past constraints in coordinating additional treatments with FirstLight. Zach explained that the treatment products are labeled for riverine areas and do not absolutely require dam flow to be completely stopped, although it is beneficial. He also proposed water quality testing after herbicide applications to ensure herbicide concentrations are lower than any EPA water restrictions.

Alternative herbicides are available. Aquathol K/ endathol acid can be used with no irrigation or lawn watering restrictions for both curly leaf and hydrilla. At the moment there is no hydrilla in Lake Zoar.

ProcellaCOR / florpyrauxifen-benzyl is a much more costly herbicide but is more selective and is the only herbicide on the market that can be guaranteed to work for three years or more in the same area.

Phoslock is a product that has potential to help prevent algae blooms by controlling internal phosphorus loading. The product binds to phosphorus and keeps it in the sediment, preventing motor boats and recreational activities from disturbing the nutrient and rereleasing it into the water column to fertilize the blooms. Commissioners discussed interest in this product as potential to starve algae blooms and mitigate the prevalence of microcystins toxins.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:
John Morin will inquire with WCSU regarding the water quality monitoring program for next season, and Tim Glover will inquire about additional testing dates through next September.

John Morin shared a draft survey for residents and lake users that will be made public in the months to come.

Boats and Motors Report:
Dick Speer reported the last two boats will be pulled and winterized as soon as possible.

Grants:
None.

Unfinished Business:
None.

New Business:
None.

Adjournment
With no further business, Vice Chairman John Morin adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

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 November 11, 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Newtown Community Center.