

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, December 5, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Oxford Town Hall.

Commissioners Present:

Barbara McWilliams, Chairwoman
John Downs
James Galarneau
Tim Glover
Dennis Lawler
Jerry Kozera
John Morin
Lesley Pires
Mark Saksa
Dick Speer

Absent:

Call to Order

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

Secretary's Report:

A motion to accept the minutes from the November 7, 2023 meetings was made by Dick Glover seconded by Tim Glover; the motion was passed unanimously.

Public Comments:

None.

Treasurer's Report:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported the current account balances with cash on hand equal \$125,399.20.

A motion to pass the treasurer's report was made by Dick Speer seconded by Jerry Kozera, the motion was passed unanimously.

Marine Patrol Report:

Marine Patrol Coordinator Dan Semosky reported the 2023 final report. There were 75 LZA patrols and 25+ gas line patrols. There were 22 disabled boats, 204 warnings and inspections, 15 written infractions (tickets requiring fine or court appearance), and one trespass arrest; for approximately 240 enforcement actions. There was one drowning at the Silver Bridge due to strong current in a no swim area. The no PFD issue has improved but is still an ongoing occurrence. In October there were some boaters not wearing a PFD. There were fewer jet ski and debris issues in 2023 than 2022.

Publicity/ Public Awareness:

Dennis Lawler reported the website is in good working order and will be updated with the 2024 meeting schedule.

Water Quality

Weed Treatment Committee:

Chairperson Barb McWilliams reported that the CT DEEP will soon be releasing a hydrilla action plan to combat the aggressive invasive species.

Water Quality Monitoring Committee:

John Morin reported that water quality testing was completed in September and there is a remaining balance to the WCSU lab. The committee will put all the collected data into a

Boats and Motors Report:

Dick Speer reported that a second boat purchase quote has been received for \$69,360, for a 21' Ultra Elite Carolina Skiff, without equipment outfitting. The radio from the old boat will be fitted into the new boat, for a cost savings of \$6,000.

The old boat is stored in Newtown and has been serviced and shrink wrapped. The new boat is at the dealership to be serviced and washed, and will then be overwintered.

Grants:

None.

Bylaws:

None.

Unfinished Business:

Chairwoman Barbara McWilliams reported that she has been working with the CT DEEP to obtain more buoys at the mouth of the Shepaug Dam to prevent visitors from crossing the no trespass area, which will warrant a trespass ticket or arrest.

Barbara reported there will also be reflective markers north and south of the stone piers near the Silver Bridge for enhanced visibility during fog, with assistance from FirstLight and the CT DEEP. John Morin inquired about lighting instead of reflective markers, as some boats do not have adequate lighting for a reflection. John will research the opportunity.

Barbara also reported on the emergency action plan with FirstLight. Commissioners practiced an emergency response during the 11/9/23 workshop, and assumed their primary roles to alert residents and boaters if there was a breach of the dam.

New Business

Chairperson Barbara McWilliams reported there will be a \$6,600 increase in the annual budget, with an additional \$10,000 assessment from each member town to finance the new boat. The final budget for the 2024 season totals \$262,014, with a contribution of \$43,327 from each member town. A motion to approve the budget was made by Dick Speer, seconded by Mark Saska, the motion was passed unanimously.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick Speer and seconded by Tim Glover. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned 7:45pm.

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, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Southbury Town Hall.