



Minutes of the 7/15/2025 Meeting

The July meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held as an online Zoom meeting.

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Gildea, Jim (Derby)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)

Members Absent

Also present was LHAMP Chief Brian Brainard and Assistant Chief Alex Commander.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

David Zitnay, former LHA member, was present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the June 2025 meeting were previously presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the June 2025 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Olson Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order. There were sufficient funds in the account to cover all expenses until the funds became available from the member towns/cities. Monthly expenses were typical, including patrol fuel & payroll and water testing. Funds were received already from Derby and Seymour. Funds were still due from Shelton and Oxford.

Motion to accept the July 2025 treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Olson Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

The LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard, reported that patrols were going well. They have had full coverage for all their shifts. There was a total of 11 infractions issued in the month of June and an additional 11 infractions in the month of July so far. There were also 5 written warnings.

The Chief noted that they had begun to implement using spotters from jet skis that would radio in to the patrol boats. Officers whom were stationed at the boat ramp would get on their own jet skis when it was slow at the ramp, to act as spotters for the patrol boats. This prompted further discussion by the board. There was concern, primarily for liability, for using personal watercraft, even if it was just for spotting. Particularly since the officers were on duty and in uniform. The Chief was asked to not continue the practice of spotting from personal vessels until it was reviewed both by DEEP and the insurance carrier.

The Chief said the fireworks went off without a hitch. There were several local fire department boats in the water. He also said the vessel safety check stickers were working out well. DEEP officers have been patrolling the state park parking lot and issuing tickets for trailer registration issues. When warranted, they will also start patrolling on Fridays. It was noted that there was a drowning at the park today that is still under investigation. And there was fire in Birchbank that destroyed a home.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported the first two samples of the season were taken and results were typical and as expected. The third will be taken on July 23rd.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that the first weed treatment would be this Thursday the 17th, starting at 7AM. First Light has committed to holding water flow for 8 hours. Jim took the contractor out on his boat to do a pretreatment review and recorded the coordinates of the most critical areas to be treated. The area in front of Wholand will get a heavy treatment with hopes of combatting the new hybrid weed species there. Jim spread flyers along the Rt 34 side of the lake and Sandy Blanchard distributed them on the Shelton side as well. The Secretary posted the treatment on Facebook and sent it to the valley Independent Sentinel. Mr. Olson stressed how successful the program has been. When the program started the treatment covered over 100 acres. It is now down to just 40 acres and will likely be less next year. Overall, the water looks really good.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chief reported that gas tanks were stolen out of a patrol boat during lunch break at Dock 34. The anchor light on boat #1, the black boat, is not working. A temporary light is being used for now. Also, the fuel gauge on the same boat is not working. This is the one that the marina had already serviced. There may be an issue with the boat-to-boat radio on boat #2, the blue boat. Sometimes it can transmit but not receive.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman welcomed Jim Gildea as a newly appointed commissioner for the city of Derby. The Derby Mayor has asked David Zitnay to step down and has appointed Jim Gildea in his place. Each board member introduced themselves, as did Mr. Gildea. The Chairman and board all thanked Dave Zitnay for his years of service and all the work he did behind the scenes maintaining the boats. The Chairman will follow up with a phone call to Mr. Gildea to get him better acquainted to the LHA and its operations.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence since May to review.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the July meeting at 7:09 PM.

Motion: Olson Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary – LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2025.