



Minutes of the 8/19/2025 Meeting

The August 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)
- Fitzgerald, Alegra (Shelton)
- Olson, Jim (Oxford)
- Stahl, Mike (Derby)

Members Absent

- Gildea, Jim (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Chief Brian Brainard.

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

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

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

Motion to accept the July 2025 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER’S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order. Funds have been received from all four cities/towns as well as donations from both rowing clubs. The general liability insurance policy and workman’s compensation have been paid. The marine insurance policy will be paid for in the next couple of days. There is an open invoice for \$15,000 from Solitude (weed treatment) that needs to be reviewed and approved for payment.

Motion to accept the August 2025 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Olson Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

The LHAMP Chief, Brian Brainard, reported that patrols were continuing to go well. They have had some busy weekends with the park at full capacity. In the last 4 weeks there has been a total of 103 vessel contacts resulting in 8 infractions, 5 written warnings, and numerous verbal warnings issued. He noted that DEEP had informed him that recent legislation changes now allow for enforcement of the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Stamp. However, very few people are aware of the requirement, and it has not been well communicated. So, the LHAMP will only be educating people on the requirement for this season. There will be two boats on the water starting at 7:30am for the October 11th and 12th regatta.

The Chairman noted that with the current overlapping shift schedule there is only one boat on the water from 6-8. He'd really prefer to see two boats out.

The Chief asked to speak about a confidential situation involving a LHAMP employee. The Chairman asked that the board go into executive session to discuss the matter.

The board entered executive session at 6:35PM.

Minutes were taken for the duration of the executive session but would only be available on a need-to-know basis to protect personal information.

The board returned from executive session at 6:40PM.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported the first couple sample results were typical to prior years. Another sample will be taken later this month.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that the second treatment was completed successfully. However, he noted that we can expect to see eel grass coming in hard over the next few weeks. The chemistry used on it is not very effective and the fact it is a native species prevents us from treating it aggressively. The state did allow an increase from 10 acres to 18 acres this year, in no small part due to the results of the weed survey. He is looking at the possibility of a new chemistry for next year, but it will be difficult to get approval. Our current permit is a three-year permit and good for another two years. The post-season weed survey will be completed in the first week of September. There is some green algae showing up. This has nothing to do with the weed treatment. This is coming from Lake Zoar. And the lack of water flow recently is not helping.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chief reported that the replacement gas cans were purchased as well as some new dock lines. The props are showing some wear but there is no vibration. It was noted that there are new replacement props in the shed if needed.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Safety Grant

There was some discussion on how the money from the water safety grant would be spent. One suggestion was possibly putting throwable recover devices near the park. As well as possibly having loaner life jackets available. The board agreed to give some thought to how to best apply the funding and make a decision at the end of the season.

NEW BUSINESS:

New Shelton appointment

At the start of the meeting the Chairmen introduced Alegra Fitzgerald as a newly appointed commissioner for the city of Shelton.

Sandy also noted that he had recently received his letter of reappointment from the town of Shelton. He encouraged all board members to check that their appointments were up to date so that they are covered under their perspective towns insurance.

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since July was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the August meeting at 6:55 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, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025.