



Minutes of the 3/17/2026 Meeting

The March 2026 meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at Derby City Hall.

Members Present

Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Fitzgerald, Alegra (Shelton)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)

Members Absent

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Gildea, Jim (Derby)

Also present was LHAMP Chief Brian Brainard.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:30PM.
Sandy Blanchard will record the minutes in the secretary's absence.

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

There was no meeting in February, so there were no meeting minutes to be approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Sandy reported that all financial affairs are in order, with little activity in February except for the receipt of both rowing groups' contributions towards the weed control program.

Motion to accept the March 2026 treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Olson Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Brian Brainard reported that while the two final patrol radios have been ordered and paid for, they have been delayed by Goosetown while they are programmed for our circuits. Brian expects to receive them within the week. New hiring of officers has been disappointing, as 40 applications were received, of which 15 were confirmed for the training, but only one will complete coursework. This means that we will have eight returning plus one new officer, for a total of nine; and four boat handlers. Brian announced that this will be his last year as Chief, and that he feels that Alex Commander has good training and credentials to step into that position next year. Brian's report was accepted.

Water Quality:

No report at this time

Weed abatement:

Jim Olsen reported that Greg Bugbee of CAES has submitted his valuable weed survey, to be put online, and has helped participating in conversations with DEEP regarding new permitting. The lake now has 51 acres of eelgrass, which as a native species cannot be heavily controlled; we received a permit to control 10 acres. Eurasian Milfoil has been essentially eradicated, which is good news, but its absence allows eelgrass to thrive, which is not so good news as we are not allowed to heavily harvest this species. Jim plans to request approval for 35 acres of eelgrass control this year. Treatment is expected on a single day in the first week of August.

Vessels and Equipment:

Consideration of boat replacement is tabled until next year. Otherwise, everything is prepared for the new season.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Safety Grant

Allegra Fitzgerald discussed her proposal to station lifesaving rings at the IWSP beach. The supplier is in Florida, and while the ring stations seem reasonable in cost, shipping is overly expensive. We will investigate obtaining assembly kits from the supplier and making the stand device by ourselves. We are fortunate to have grant money available to make this improvement possible.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pink House Point lease:

The Pink House Point lease was reviewed for content, and then signed and witnessed.

New PO Box Key:

As the Post Office has changed our PO Box lock, a key was given to Mike Stahl to replace the earlier key.

Hopkins School's regatta permit:

Hopkins School's regatta permit for May 16 was approved, with Blanchard abstaining.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence of any significance was received since the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the March meeting at 7:30 PM.

Motion: Behuniak

Second: Olson

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, APRIL 21, 2026.