

Minutes of the 4/21/2026 Meeting

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

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

Members Absent
Fitzgerald, Alegra (Shelton)
Evans, Chris (Shelton)

Also present was Brian Brainard, LHA Marine Patrol Chief.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:32PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the March 2026 meeting were previously presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the March 2026 meeting minutes as presented:
Motion: Blanchard Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that all finances were in order, and the books were balanced. An audit was performed by a third party before the new year and no issues found. A discussion ensued related to insurance which was captured under the New Business heading.

Motion to accept the April 2026 treasurer's report as presented:
Motion: Behuniak Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 8:59 am, Apr 27, 2026

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

The Chief, Brian Brainard, reported that the swim test was completed for the new officer and boat handler. A CPR class was being organized to be held at the New Haven Rowing Club soon. He will be ordering a uniform and getting an ID for the new officer. He received the new ticket books and was sending the payroll and tax forms out to the officers to complete. Half the team has completed their recertification, and the other half will be done shortly.

The Chairman asked that the assistant Chief start attending the meetings since he is in line to replace the Chief next year.

The DEEP memorandum of agreement needs to be reviewed again as it is likely due for renewal.

First patrol will be Memorial Day weekend.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that the first sample would be taken towards the end of May.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that there would only be one treatment this year. Tentatively to be done the third week of July. We will not be treating for Milfoil this year as the effected acreage has been reduced from 153 acres to just 5 acres. The issue this year is Eel grass which is currently affecting 53 acres. New chemistry will be tried. A new permit application was submitted for 30 acres each of two new chemistries Although an overall decrease in the amount of chemistry, it's more expensive, so the total bill will be similar to last year at $46,000. There was also a rough quote given for 1 week of mechanical cutting amounting to 5 acres for approximately $15,000.

Vessels and Equipment:

Brian Brainard said that the two new handheld radios had finally been programmed and were picked up from the vendor, Goosetown. They appear to work but needed to be tested. This will bring the total number of portables to 5. He also noted that the two radar guns were going for calibration.

He noted that DEEP was looking to change their policy and exclude the carrying of mace, baton, or hand cuffs by marine patrol officers and as such would not provide defensive tactics training. The LHAMP was able to obtain training and certification from an accredited trainer but this could become an issue in the future.

The porta potty will be delivered and boats in the water by Memorial Day weekend.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

Water Safety Grant

No report at this time

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New Patrol Boat

No report at this time

NEW BUSINESS:

Liability Insurance

Sandy Blanchard informed the board that the liability insurance from CIRMA was due for renewal and wanted to review the details of the policy with the board prior to renewal. Sandy read the policy and explained the coverage. In summary there is Law Liability which covers a wrongful act by a marine patrol officer and Public Official Liability which covers a wrongful act by a board member. It was clear that the coverage was $1 million dollars. What was not clear if it was total coverage, per incident, or per individual. The board asked Sandy to contact the insurance broker, CIRMA, to get clarification. It was felt that if the coverage was per individual claim that it was adequate. But if the coverage was per incident, then it likely would not be if multiple people filed a claim. A decision to renew the insurance at its current coverage would be tabled until this was fully understood.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence of any significance has been received since the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the April meeting at 7:15 PM.
Motion: Jim Second: Paul 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, MAY 19, 2026.

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By Marc J. Garofalo, MPA, MCC, MCTC at 8:59 am, Apr 27, 2026