

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF November 8, 2017

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on November 8th. The following members were present: Dennis Overfield, Richard Smith, Robert Recor, Tom Baehr and Toni Phillips. Five local attendees were also present. The minutes were typed by Nicole Krol.

The meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority was called to order at 7:30pm by Dennis Overfield.

A motion to approve the minutes from October was made by Rob Recor, Dick Smith second. The vote was unanimously approved.

Lake Patrol

The RLA boat was picked up from Reynolds and stored for the season.

Weeds

Before purchasing weed mats the board will determine the demand. Tom talked about the advantages and disadvantages of putting the mats in different locations around the lake. The weed mats are not as successful in areas with a lot of "muck". Dennis will include information about weed mat availability to the public in the town's events magazine, there are limited number of mats available.

Budget

The board discussed and reviewed budget items from past 2 years and went on to create the budget for the next five years.

Old Business

Dennis followed up with the town sanitarian about the green algae, when returning to the site for possible testing the water was clear from the algae.

New Business

Mark June-Wells, Ph.D. of Aquatic Ecosystem Research emailed the water quality report from last year's treatment. Dennis was able to attend and observe the last water collection at the end of October. Water samples were collected from both ends of the lake, at the deepest point. The full report will be ready sometime in January.

RLA would like to survey the lake to determine where the herbicide application should be applied next time around, it would be beneficial to have a third-party consult. Lake wide studies would be very helpful moving forward, the more information available will help RLA and the towns make the best decision for the lake health.

An attendee had decomposing lily pads wash up in a large clump. She raked out as much as she could and does not know what to do with the remains. Dennis will see if public works will come remove it or Bonnie may allow it to be dumped in the town landfill. There are other floating masses throughout the lake as well. The decomposing matter is not dangerous and can make good compost. An attendee asked if alewives were released into the lake? Yes, there were 3,000 alewives released into the lake.

The board discussed many of the points outlined in the summary of the Lakes Conference below.

Summary of Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) Conference on October 14, 2017

The following is information gleaned from the Connecticut Federation of Lakes conference held at the Woodridge Lake Clubhouse in Goshen, CT on October 14, 2017.

- The Fall CFL conference was only a half-day event compared to the full day event in the spring. The clubhouse was near capacity with lake association representatives from around the state.
- Road salt is not an issue in Rogers Lake. This was confirmed by published conductivity data that showed Rogers Lake with one of the lowest readings in the state.
- Mark June-Wells, Ph.D. of Aquatic Ecosystem Research (AER), that monitors the Rogers Lake water quality, facilitated a breakout session on Aquatic Plants and Lake Ecosystems. Mark presented and explained how the water quality directly impacted the type of weeds that could be supported in a lake. This helped explain why we don't have issues with certain plants that are troublesome for other lakes.
- George Knoecklein, Ph.D. of Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), spoke and answered questions all aspects of lake management including aquatic plant management, nutrient reduction strategies, and water quality monitoring.
- Bantam Lake Association made a presentation of a website application they developed that provided current water quality assessment from around the lake. Bantam lake has significant algae issues that impact the use of the lake during the summer. Residents reference the website to see what activities would be safe while on the lake.
- Hillary Kenyon of Northeast Aquatic Research facilitated a breakout group dealing with aquatic invasive plant remediation. Herbicide treatment is the most cost effective way to address invasive plants, but also felt hydro raking should be considered as part of the remediation. There is no one-time cure for invasive plants. Once you have them they will never be fully eradicated and must be continually monitored and remediated.
- Larry Marsicano of Aquatic Ecosystem Research facilitated a breakout group dealing with water sampling and analysis. A number of lakes have taken up this task and do it themselves. There are a couple of sources for these testing kits, but it requires a number of people to participate if it is to be done properly.
- Senator Craig Miner of the 30th district, and Representative Melissa Ziobron of the 34th district gave a Connecticut lake legislative update. The takeaway from their presentation is there is currently no funding available from the State for the lakes. In the question and answer session after their presentation were numerous complaints from the lake associations about the long delays in obtaining permits for invasive plant remediation. They explained that due to state cutbacks there was now only one person that issued permits.

Motion to adjourn was made by Tom and Dick second, motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 9:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Krol, Secretary for RLA, Nicole-krol@att.net

The next meeting of the Rogers Lake Association will be on December 6, at 7:30PM at the Rogers Lake West Shores Clubhouse.