ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF July 10, 2019

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on July 10th. The following members were present: Dennis Overfield, Dick Smith, Mark Hastings, Robert Recor, and Toni Phillips. Ten local attendees were also present. The minutes were typed by Nicole Krol.

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

The minutes from June were read aloud, Dick made a motion to accept the minutes, Mark second, the motion passed unanimously.

Lake Patrol

- The RLA performed boat rescue this past weekend, the boats were all returned to their owners.
- One of the patrol boat workers will be replaced if he does not show up for work.
- There have been a few incidents with the jet skiers on the lake. Jet skis need to stay 200ft from everything on the lake including shore, other boats, and objects. There was much discussion about the issues that have come up on the lake so far this summer. An attendee had a specific issue with jet skiers riding too close to his property, DEEP responded to the incident and witnessed a jet ski breaking the rules and said he would issue a ticket. RLA is committed to enforcing the lake rules, RLA will plan to be on the lake in full force the weekend of July 27-28. Multiple boat enforcement will make a statement to those not regarding the rules of the lake. The RLA boat is not out Tuesday and Thursday afternoons because it has not been that busy. The patrol boat will be out Tuesday and Thursday afternoons if an issue arises.
- The RLA has issued a letter to the rowing association about unsafe boating. An attendee observed some of the row boats not following the proper direction within the lake, Dennis shared the rowing association contact for those who observe issues in order to make a report.

Weeds

- Weed mats were placed in a section of muck for two years and recently removed there was no change in the amount of muck.

Budget

None

Old Business

- The RLA newsletter went out to residents around the lake, the board would like to send out a newsletter a few times a year. The newsletter is also handed out at the boat launch, Jenell did a wonderful job, the board thanks her!!
- Bob updated the board about the water quality testing.
- Yale was at the lake again; they make observations every couple of weeks. They are a good source of information in regards to the lake.

New Business

- The weed treatment application took place, the RLA did not receive notice in time to inform the public of the treatment. Rogers Lake was treated with Clipper and Procellacor to control the invasive weed growth. Mark was able to update the board on the survey experience, both milfoil and fanwort were observed throughout the lake. There was some additional growth in comparison to the original survey. The Procellacor is good for 3 years after the application. There were some areas not treated which have both milfoil and fanwort. A review of the study will be sent to RLA.
- A question was asked, will the treatment take place each year? The board is unsure, the permit was good for one application. Bob asked how the weed treatment affects the ecosystem of the lake, the decomposition of the plants may affect marine life. Water quality tests are done and reports are provided to the town and board of RLA. An attendee asked, has the board considered not treating the lake in the future? In response, the town takes recommendation about treatment from the company who surveys the lake and then makes the final decision. An attendee was concerned that there was no notice given to the public about the herbicide treatment day and time. Notice was given to Old Lyme's first select woman, but the notice came in when she was on vacation and no one was notified of the treatment until after it was complete. The notice posted by The Pond and Lake Connection after the treatment suggests no irrigation for 5 days.
- The CT Examiner wrote an article about the lake treatment and lack of communication to residents, RLA, and Parks and Recreation. Local attendee Tom Baehr informed the board of his frustration with the lack of communication regarding the treatment as well. In reference to First Selectman Steven Mattson's comments in the article, Tom felt he was an "idiot", Mattson stated preventing swimmers and boaters was not necessary. The CT Examiner quoted Mattson in the article, "The chemical is not dangerous to swimmers. The DEEP permit only has us publicize the treatment in the paper" Mattson was also quoted saying, "Three years ago there was a warning for 24 hours just to make people feel a little better" (Werth, J). Tom expressed his concern that the town's residents health and safety was at risk because the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme did not notify the public of the herbicide application. The only notification of the treatment he could find was in a public announcement that one would need to subscribe to in order to receive the message. The CT Examiner article can be found at: https://ctexaminer.com/2019/07/09/late-application-of-herbicide-to-rogers-lake-causes-confusion-lack-of-notice-in-old-lyme/
  Mark mentioned he had the fact sheets on both chemicals and there is no problem with swimming, boating, or drinking, the only restriction is irrigation for 5 days after the treatment. Toni asked, did the surveyor notice the green slime? There was note of green algae in many areas, the surveyor did not think it was a problem.
- The parrot feather that Jen pulled last year has not been visible this season.
- Fishing tournaments on 7/13, 10 boats, from 6am-noon. 7/13, 10 boats, from 6pm to 7/14 at 2pm.
- The board will hold an executive meeting after the regular meeting to discuss how to respond to the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme on the lack of communication regarding the herbicide treatment to Rogers Lake. (appendix I)

A motion to adjourn was made by Dick, Toni second, motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 8:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The next meeting of the Rogers Lake Association will be on August 14th, at 7:30PM at the Rogers Lake West Shores Clubhouse.

Appendix I

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE RLA EXECUTIVE MEETING OF July 10, 2019

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on July 10th, the executive meeting followed. The following members were present: Dennis Overfield, Dick Smith, Mark Hastings, Robert Recor, and Toni Phillips. The minutes were typed by Nicole Krol.

The Executive meeting regarding the weed treatment communication was called to order at 8:58pm by Dennis Overfield.

The board discussed how to respond to the towns of Lyme and Old Lyme regarding the lack of communication of the weed treatment application. Communication regarding the weed treatment last year was poor as well. Dennis sent out an email he received from Nicholas McMahon from The Pond Lake Connection asking if there was someone from the RLA who would be joining in on the pre-treatment survey, Nicholas had not heard back from the town. Bonnie received an email on June 26th about the treatment to be taken place on July 8th but RLA was notified just 90 minutes before the start of the process.

The board members all voted to address the issue regarding the lack of communication to the RLA and the public. The lack of communication is a concern and possible risk to public safety.

What is an appropriate response? A letter, public announcement? Mark suggested outlining the process of the weed treatment application in 2019 and letting the towns know how the public is concerned and talk about a solution to the problems that have occurred. The board would like to have dates in place for the next weed treatment process and would like to be copied in on matters concerning the lake. The public looks to the RLA for information and communication and RLA would like to provide as much information as possible. The board is considering requesting to meet with town officials in person. The permit received referenced state statues; the board will research to see if there were any statues broken in the communication process.

Dennis did receive the permit for application on the 26th but was not notified of the treatment date.

Agreement: The board will draft a letter to send to the towns selectman's, each of the board members will have input and sign the letter.

Dennis will draft the schedule of events with dates for future treatments. Mark will draft the outline of current events and research statue codes. Toni will draft a basic letter for board members to add to. A survey of the entire lake needs to be done in order to have a plan in place for next year. The goal is to have the letter ready by the end of next week.

Dennis made motion to adjourn, the motion passed unanimously the meeting ended at 9:23.