

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF MAY 11, 2022

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at 7:30 PM on May 11, 2022.

The following members were present: Dennis Overfield, Janell Janes, Toni Phillips, Mark Hastings, and Maneesha Joshi joined by phone. About 15-20 local attendees joined the meeting as well. The minutes were recorded by Toni Phillips.

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

We have two guest presenters tonight from UConn who will review their alewife study which is in progress at five other lakes. Presenters are Dr. Eric Schultz and Michael Burgess. Their slideshow noted the following:

- Alewives are anadromous, meaning they live in the ocean and they spawn in fresh water.
 - Their current project studies juveniles and the obstacles they face, such as drought and predatory fish.
 - The study's end goal is to understand how drought affects the juveniles.
 - Alewives are classified as a 'species of concern', meaning they may go extinct if things don't improve for them.
 - They hope to add Rogers Lake to their study roster.
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The minutes from the April 19, 2022 meeting were read aloud. A few corrections were noted. A motion to accept the updated minutes from April 19 was made by Toni, Mark second, and the motion passed unanimously.

The minutes from the April 25, 2022 special meeting were read aloud. two corrections were noted. A motion to accept the minutes from April 25 was made by Janell, Maneesha second, and the motion passed unanimously.

Budget

The board reviewed the current budget through May 5 and it is still sufficient to cover the remainder of the current fiscal year. It was noted that we'll be billed next month for the Pond and Lake Connection's May 6 treatment of the invasive Curly-Leaf Pond Weed.

Seasonal Employment Update

The Rogers Lake patrol boat supervisor asked the applicants from Indeed.com to proceed with submitting the required town application to the town of Old Lyme. Only two people from Indeed so far have submitted the town application. We do have four (4) people hired, but we'd prefer to get one more person. John will reach back out to the applicant who is considering working at another lake.

State Boat Launch Attendant

DEEP does not have any boat launch training set up at this time. We'll keep checking.

Patrol Boat

The town of Lyme so far has insurance on only the boat trailer. We will not use the boat until it also is insured. The Lyme selectman asked for information about the boat and Dennis provided that info to him. After some back and forth, currently the issue to get the boat insured is with Old Lyme.

Purchase of Sandbar Buoy

Sandbar buoy is ordered. When in, Dennis will pick it up.

New Business

Note: At approximately 45 minutes into the meeting, a number of unrecognized comments and questions came from the local attendees. The Chair of meeting explained that the meeting was held under Roberts Rules of Order and that comments would be heard at the end of the meeting. Comments from the local attendees continued and became loud and disruptive. The Chair called Old Lyme police and requested an officer's presence to help restore order to the meeting. Officers arrived and remained until the end of the meeting.

We reviewed the pros and cons of the two water quality testing quotes. SWCA is \$8,725 for testing 2 times/year and a report. Yale is \$8,000 for testing 15 times/year and a report. Yale also has about 20 years of historical data about the water of Rogers Lake. Toni made a motion to hire Yale for the water quality testing, Janell second, and the motion passed by all with one abstention.

The contract is out for the removal of the Asian clam at Hains Park area and at Whale Island. Dennis met with Old Lyme Parks & Recreation's Don Bugbee, advising him that the removal work will be done weekdays during the daytime. It shouldn't disturb the rowers. The removal will be done by hand-harvesting, utilizing a grid system to help ensure success.

The day of the curly-leaf pond weed treatment, May 6, Dennis went around the lake with the applicators and more curly-leaf was found in addition to the originally identified one acre. Note that the survey for it was done at a time of the year when the curly-leaf had already died off. For this reason, 2.5 acres were treated. The treatment was advertised on both town websites, in the newspaper, and Pond & Lake Connection put up 36 signs at telephone/light poles. Janell made a suggestion that next time we have a treatment, we also should put signs up at start of Grassy Hill Rd and start of Rogers Lake Trail. We will do this in the future. An attendee later suggested the location where Bill Hill and Blood Street meet is another good location for an additional sign, besides Grassy Hill and Rogers Lake Trail.

Regarding the spring newsletter, some minor suggestions were given to Janell. She noted she'll send out a final draft for RLA to sign off on. She expects the newsletter will be in mailboxes the week of Memorial Day.

Public Comment included discussions on:

Preference for a one-way sign being installed on the island.

Request for weed treatment notifications on Blood Street.

Formation of a committee to investigate options to increase safety on the lake.

Questions on the process for ordinance change and the rationale for a No Wake Zone.

A motion to adjourn was made by Janell, Toni second, motion passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Toni Phillips

The next meeting of the RLA will be on June 8, 2022, 7:30 PM at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse.