

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2022

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30PM on August 10, 2022. The following members were present: Maneesha Joshi, Toni Phillips, Richard Smith, Mark Hasting, Jenell Smith Janes. There were a number of local attendees, an estimate of 18, at the meeting as well. The minutes were recorded by Erica Correia.

The meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority was called to order at 7:30pm by Mark Hastings. The minutes from June were read aloud. Multiple adjustments need to made (Q&A, last names, DEEP)

Jenell Smith Janes asked to suspend approving the minutes until the September meeting and all agreed.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget - Final 21/22 budgets were reviewed. Came in 14% under budget which is about \$8k under budget. \$6k represented labor due to Patrol Boat not going out in bad weather. Weed survey over budget by \$3k but under budget in testing and miscellaneous.

Incorrect 22/23 budget was provided so those copies are being shredded.

Patrol Boat Update – supervisor of Patrol Boat unable to be here tonight. Patrol boat has been out fairly consistently without many abnormal or unusual instances. Have been unsuccessful in getting patrol men on the boat and Mark does not know why as reaches out to try to schedule have not been successful. An attendee mentioned that the police have been required at the beach.

NEW BUSINESS

Asian Clam Project – 1st day started sampling around Hains Park to get a feel for the size of the problem. Dennis and Mark met with them midday on Monday to do spot check. Went to Sandy Beach, Oak Tree, Blueberry Island, Boat Launch and sandbar near the Boat Launch. Found the clams in all locations except at the Boat Launch. Dennis and Mark met with them again on Tuesday and it became clear that the clams are only growing in sandy/rocky soil and not in the muck. Became clear that eradicating the clams would be impossible so changed the use of their time from an eradication to a study. SWCA sampled many parts of the lake to determine where the clams were in different increments of depth. SWCA will get a written report to us with recommendations as to what can be done and what the effects are by November/December timelines. These are not zebra clams that will take out all other clams and mussels in the lake bottom, however they are invasive. Results will be sent to DEEP to ask for a grant in getting this invasive species addressed. They are not being brought in by sand but could be coming in through boat bilge pumps.

- Contacted by Alysa Mullen who grew up in Rogers Lake West Shores Area and is currently a teacher at The Sound High School in New Haven. She suggested her students do an on-going

study for RLA at the lake to chart progression of the clams and they may go in at one of the right-a-ways. This would be free knowledge.

Q. Can we every get rid of the clams?

A. We cannot poison them. Mats can be put down to kill them but it will kill everything under them. The clams only go out about 8 ft but covering the shoreline with mats is not an option. Waiting to see SWCA recommendation.

Representation of Ordinance Discussion - Will share data that is being collected at the October meeting. Patrol team has been sharing preliminary information – didn't know had to go counter-clockwise vs clockwise, issues of being too close to shorelines, discussions with both jet ski owners and boat owners. Lot of what patrol boat does is to help those who break down. Jenell and Maneesha would like to work with the presidents of the 4 associations to start discussion around ideas to continue improving safety. Keep conversations going in September, October, and if needed November.

Any Other New Business –

Hains Park closed over the weekend due to bacteria. This is the only area of the lake that Ledge Light tests and bacteria is likely due to geese. Islands are private so residents will address the eggs/nests in March/April. Is Old Lyme still using a dog for geese control? Mark Hastings will call Old Lyme to find out.

Q. Can we petition Ledge Light to test other areas?

A. It is both public and private so the town will likely not pay for it. Do the associations have funds that can be used to test the water in other swimming areas i.e. right-a-ways where people swim?

Public Comment/Question –

Roger Burning

Q. Has good view of lake from his house and sees the boat go up and down many times including Saturdays and Sundays. Never sees anyone pulled over for anything.

A. Janelle saw it pull over 3 people this weekend herself. Roger's neighbor Mark himself got pulled over this past weekend.

Q. Patrol boat had issue with warnings/violations. He wants to know what those are.

A. He will be informed in October when study (interaction report) is concluded.

Jeff Albert

Q. Does not agree with the comment that “we have a safety issue”. He is out there a lot and does not see it. He just sees people having fun. Disagrees that there is a safety issue on the lake that has to shut down the middle of the lake.

A. Richard Smith - Lots of things that have to be addressed for example people riding a 2 year old in the front of a jet ski.

Q. Wants to be sure that you will know if you were reported. Should not get a notice later. No one should be able to create false accusations.

A. Mark Hastings stated that anyone can record it and report it. If someone reported another boater for any reason DEEP has no reason to tell RLA. DEEP needs proof (video, etc).

Christina Evers

Q. Seeing an uptick of rowers going the wrong way this year. Just need to be educated because person in charge did not know about the counter-clockwise. Needs to be re-iterated to people in charge. Stated this was 4 weekends ago and this weekend it seemed better. If lake has been uneventful than why do we need a police officer on the patrol boat? We don't even have a speed limit so why do we need this?

A. Jenell - had previously been reported to Dennis that support boats were going fast to catch up to rowers before 10am. They were not abiding by no wake rules so Dennis reached out and created an awareness to educate them. This weekend she noticed the chase boats were staying with the rowers. We can also connect with patrol boat operator and make him aware.

At times there has been heated interaction with owners and fisherman where homeowners do not want people fishing outside of their homes. Complaint about small child not wearing a lifejacket. Police officer could address these things.

Ginny King –

Q. Thank you for having a great atmosphere and facing the audience of citizens. Today had an issue outside her house. Person in kayak/stand up paddleboard – no life jacket – flipped couldn't get back on and kept trying. Jet skier circled around, stopped, went to other paddleboarder and got the guy on the back of their jet ski, got the kayak and paddle. Patrol boat wasn't out. Seems that there are some bad weather days and not one person on the water and the patrol boat is out there. Could it be more set to the weather and the need?

A. Mark Hastings - We have a fixed budget so there is a challenge in changing the patrol boat schedule.

Jenell Smith Janes – We do try to address special dates like the 4th of July may fall on a day we don't have Patrol Boat but they will send it out.

Q. Are we keeping track of interactions from people living on the lake vs interactions from people who don't live on the lake?

A. Mark Hastings - not everyone we interact with is willing to share as much information as others. We try to take down their registration to find out who they are.

Andy Martin

Q. Was there a survey boat on the lake last night?

A. Mark Hastings stated "maybe but they don't tell us when they are going."

Q. Row boats and chase boats – still saw them last week out there at 7am.

A. Mark Hastings stated RLA will tell them the rules again.

Denise Albert

Q. Big fishing tournaments block the whole channel. Could they congregate in the middle of the lake?

A. Mark Hastings - They have a permit and have set times on the lake. RLA can talk to DEEP and ask them to have them congregate somewhere else.

Jeff Albert (comment) – boat bottoms filthy and the fisherman say they know they don't have to clean them.

Q. Does RLA have the authority to deny a permit?

A. No. DEEP has the authority to approve or deny permits.

Steve Smith

Q. If you launch your boat on state boat launch owned by DEEP until hit body of water owned by Lyme/Old Lyme why don't they dredge? When trees fall they aren't taken care of and cannot get 2 boats by there?

A. Richard Smith - State of CT says it is to protect the turtles.

Mark Zantola –

Q. Crew boats – have done studies on damn and rebuilt damn, now discussing no-wake zone, started with 1 boat house, now we have 3. Speaking about safety on the lake – have the crew boats outgrown Rogers Lake? Doesn't mind it being accessible to Old Lyme High School but why can everyone use it?

A. Jenelle Smith Janes – Parks & Recreation is who to contact.

Abby

Q. Complaint about landowners complaining about people fishing too close to shore. Is that a law that they cannot fish too close to shore?

A. Jenelle Smith Lanes - No it is not a law they just can't touch their land.

David Evers (comment) I want to thank the board. This meeting was a good reach-out point. This lake is safer than Gardner.

Q. Has a permit been filed for the Picnic Island one-way and if not why?

A. Mark Hastings stated has to find someone to do it.

Q. Ask DEEP if can put a mailbox with standard rules that boaters can grab?

A. Multiple RLA members stated that no state will not allow us to put anything on the property.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenell Smith Janes, second by Maneesha Joshi, motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 8:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Correia, Secretary for the RLA, ecorreia80@gmail.com

The next meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority will be on Wednesday, September 14th at 7:30PM at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse.