

## **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 7:30 PM on June 8, 2022. The following members were present: Dennis Overfield, Toni Phillips, Jenell Janes and Mark Hastings. There were a number of local attendees, an estimate of 25, joined the meeting as well. The minutes were recorded by Nicole Krol.

The meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority was called to order at 7:31 pm by Dennis Overfield. The minutes from May were read aloud. Two additions include: the time frame for harvesting Asian clams is June through July. Second, under water quality: SWCA is sampling 2 locations, Yale is sampling 1, at the deepest part of the lake but at five different levels. A motion to accept the minutes from May with corrections was made by Jenell, Mark second, the motion passed unanimously.

Gregg Bugbee and Summer Stebbins from Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station gave a presentation of the 2021 lake study. Highlights from the presentation include:

- The invasive species growth has decreased from 2006-2021. Variable-leaf watermilfoil was significantly reduced and credit is given to the weed treatments. Two additional invasive weeds were observed in 2021 but seem to be under good management. There has been an increase in native plants which is healthy for the lake.
- A webpage to see an interactive map which shows weed status in 2006 and again in 2021 can be found at [portal.ct.gov/caes-iapp](http://portal.ct.gov/caes-iapp)
- An observation made was a new tea-colored tint to the lake which may be caused by acidity from leaves or water fed areas of the lake.
- In 1978 the Phosphorus level was 13 at the surface and 28 at the bottom. It has dropped to much lower levels in 2021. This could mean a less nutrient fed lake.
- Overall, the health of the lake is good.
- Some experiments to control weeds explored by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station include benthic barriers, aquatic herbicides, and biological control.

### **Lake Patrol**

Lake patrol schedules are being devised regarding the state trooper riding along on the boat. John will be meeting with the lake patrol employees. The patrol boat was towed in yesterday, it would not start, a few minor repairs were made. If the RLA boat fails, there is no contingency plan for a replacement boat. The boat will be taken to be repaired and the lake will go unpatrolled.

### **Weeds**

None

### **Budget**

The board reviewed the current budget. The 2022/2023 RLA budget was approved.

## **Old Business**

Candlewood Lake started a lake steward program, they were able to get a state grant to fund the program. The job is posted at local colleges and DEEP is able to train the stewards via zoom and in person. Toni will look into getting DEEP's training material for educational purposes. New lake patrol shirts and hats have been ordered. Old Lyme will be responsible for insuring the RLA boat. The sandbar buoy would not stand up straight, it needed more weight in order to stand. The spring newsletter has not been mailed out yet, it will be sent out on 6/9. Yale and the town of Old Lyme need to sign the contract in order to have Yale start the water quality testing.

## **New Business**

There may be more Asian Clams in different areas of the lakes. A new survey/study of the clams will need to be initiated before making plans on how to address the issue if there is one.

A new RLA violation record sheet was created. The record will include date, identification of the operator, notes, and location of infraction on the lake. This will replace the journal currently being used.

Fishing tournament on June 15, with 12 kayaks from 6am-12pm.

## **Public Comment Includes:**

Dave Evers – There was not enough public comment included in last month's minutes. Would like Dick Smith to attend the RLA meetings, he is co-chair and represents the Old Lyme residents but has not been able to make it to a meeting in quite a while. Questioned Dennis about his statement made at a prior meeting that the buoys would be in this summer. Dennis' response was yes, I said that however that was before our research was done.

Jeff Albert – Why was the patrol boat sitting in the middle of channel, could RLA please pass along the information to the patrol boat employee that this behavior could be a safety issue.

Gregg - Kayakers were going in the wrong direction and the patrol boat did not educate of the safety issue. The one-way sign is no longer in place. Yolanda from DEEP said that a new sign can be installed at the boat launch with a permit. Sign at boat launch was removed because it had incorrect information. DEEP should attend the meetings.

Christina Evers – Animosity has been created because of frustration that there may be targets on boater's backs. Non-response from the RLA on the no wake buoys is causing speculation from the public. Why was DEEP sign removed at the boat launch prior to Memorial Day weekend? Would like to see better communication between RLA and the public.

Diane- Kayakers may not be aware of boating rules and regulations they do not have boaters' licenses to operate a kayak.

Mike Sicord - The way that lake patrol employees' approach those who need to be educated will be important to getting a positive response from boaters. Education is important.

Roger- RLA should publish the log information which is corrected. Would like to go back to the way it was before April.

Christine Dibiasi - When is the clam harvesting happening? How is the speed of boats being monitored?

Erin- Detailed discussion on the incident reports was discussed. RLA has been asking people on the shore if they feel safe with the boats going by.

Bill Ferguson- Interacted with Dennis over the weekend as he saw Dennis taking pictures of his boat. Dennis responded that he was taking pictures of a jet ski.

Bill Ferguson, address un-audible. Mr. Ferguson shared that he and Dennis Overfield had a personal interaction over the weekend. Dennis had a camera and was taking pictures of him, his son, and his girlfriend. The girlfriend was upset. Mr. Ferguson feels like there is a personal vendetta on him. Dennis asked if Mr. Ferguson knew why he was taking pictures and asked Mr. Ferguson if he knows what the requirement is for a jet ski related to a stationary object. Mr. Ferguson stated it doesn't matter. Dennis shared that he was not taking pictures of the person on the dock. The two disagreed on whether or not a jet ski was in the water or on the dock.

Denise Albert-Heartbroken and disgusted about the situation on the lake.

Dorothy- Why do we have to fix something that's not an issue, there is no danger and less traffic.

Noreen Ranelli- Is there a plan to replace the sign at the boat launch? It needs to be in place for safety. A: It will not be pursued at this time.

RLA responses- No wake vessels can go anywhere in any direction but will make the patrol boat operators aware of the safety issue. Will look into a new one-way sign. The no wake buoy discussion will pick back up in September.

The clam harvesting is done with scuba divers within a 3-foot grid, weekdays. Could be for two weeks. Speed is not being monitored. Would like to have the lake back to normal. Ordinances will not be discussed again until September. Infraction reports are only created if there is interaction between the boater and patrol boat.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mark, Toni second, motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Krol, Secretary for RLA, [nicole-krol@att.net](mailto:nicole-krol@att.net)

The next meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority will be on July 13, 2022, 7:30 PM at the Rogers Lake Clubhouse