

ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF October 12, 2022

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on October 12, 2022. The following members were present: Toni Phillips, Jenell Janes, Maneesha Joshi, Mark Hastings, and Dennis Overfield. There was also a number of local attendees in attendance, an estimate of 12. The minutes were recorded by Erica Correia.

The meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority was called to order at 7:30pm by Dennis Overfield. The September 14th meeting minutes were read aloud and a motion to accept the minutes with one name change was made by Jenell Smith and seconded by Toni Phillips. Motion passed unanimously.

Dennis stated that Dick Smith called him at 6:30 and will not make it tonight because they are having staffing issues at the school.

OLD BUSINESS

September budget review – RLA Clerk (Erica Correia) is now being paid out of the RLA budget instead of some other budget. Weed treatment – have not been invoiced for final treatment of phragmites and additional milfoil. They did come on 9/21/22 but we have not been billed yet. Asian Clam – still waiting for report which should be in late fall. RLA Misc Other – can pay for any signage out of this. Docking Fees – verbal agreement can continue to use dock the way we did this year.

Patrol boat - Winterization - Pulled last Thursday. Issue with starter all summer so being looked at. Prop saw bottom a few times so will be replaced. Heftier bill this year because of these things. Will be shrink wrapped.

DEEP person showed up in early September and was doing a survey at the launch. Got on Greg's case and told him he could not be there. RLA will need to have a come to Jesus talk with Yolanda and the group.

Public comment – launch attendant is only supposed to discuss weeds and horse-power. Dennis stated Greg found it helpful to have discussions about other things before boats got out on the lake. Jenell asked what kind of questions the woman from DEEP was asking – Mark Hastings responded that she was asking people their zip code. Dennis stated she never provided any identification. She was there less than 30 minutes and spent more time with Greg than with anyone else.

Representation for ordinance discussion - Rescheduled meeting for October 13th at 6pm because one associate was not able to come. Mike Secor will be delegate from Oak Tree Association and Maneesha and Jenell will meet with Dave, Mike, and Steve.

Water quality update – Dennis reached out to Yale University to get report on water quality. They reported that measurements this year are the highest since 2016. Highest means clearer water. Typically fish kill are due to low oxygen. Have not run full nutrient samples yet but nothing looks out of the ordinary. Reduced run-off from drought has kept excessive nutrients out of the lake this year. Appears a bit murkier in areas where vegetation has been removed – may be easier to see or low water levels make it easier for wakes to kick up sediment.

Dennis asked Jenell to reach out to Alyssa Mullen's father to see what is going on with her and the school.

Was claimed that Asian clams will make the water cloudier but actually they will make the water clearer because they take all the nutrients out of the water. Water clarity is crystal clear where there are lots of Asian clams.

NEW BUSINESS

Contract Final Invasive Treatment – budget was approved for this at least meeting

Public Interaction Summary – tallied sheets from boat operators during the summer. Not all interactions were recorded so this is the sample we have and it is not perfect. 36 forms were filled out for interactions with the public. 1/3 were real safety issues – speed too close to shore, unsafe operation. The rest were more educational – people going in the wrong direction, towing, or other – communication, towing a dock, etc. 35 vessels were involved - 20 were boats, 12 jetskis, 1 kayak, 1 pontoon, 1 non-vessel. Location not always identified – 26 were identified. De-brief with patrol guys – overall they felt it was a good year, traffic relatively light overall. Majority of their task is education as people do not know the rules. People are responsive to them. Takeaways – the patrol guys will get together over the winter to establish consistency with how they handle interactions.

Need to change the message on the phone to say when the boat will operate. Will also include this in the newsletter. Also should re-brand the boat so it is a Safety Boat vs the current Patrol boat.

Dave Evers Comment – Were people interacted with Rogers Lake people or from elsewhere? Mark stated most infractions were for going the wrong way. Patrol boat guys felt it was significant non-resident interaction. Dave knows board is in a tough spot because can't put any signs up at boat launch.

Roger Breunig Comment – After DEEP took the sign down did the incidents increase? Board stated we don't know.

Public Comment – Yolanda said anyone could pull a permit. Dennis stated that the board has a laundry list of things to discuss with Yolanda/DEEP. Public stated it would be nice to have the channel cleaned up. Maneesha will look for who has the deed to the channel.

Public Comment – What is on the laundry list to be discussed with Yolanda/DEEP? Dennis stated they have to talk with them about why we can't have someone at the boat launch and the rest of the list is being generated.

Public Comment – can we post a sign on the fence of the property next to the boat launch? Jenell stated that property is for sale right now.

Any Other New Business

One Way Sign permit says signs in 3 areas – All are 3 ft wide signs and in the middle of the waterways. This will be added to laundry list to discuss with Yolanda/DEEP. Mark stated don't know why permit has signs right in the middle of the channels which is more harm than good. Landowner contacted Mark Hastings and asked about the sign and Mark told him what it was going to be. Mark will circle back with landowner but also need to speak with DEEP.

Jenell asked who submits permit? Dennis stated RLA does and Jenell stated none of the current RLA members were members in 1993.

Dennis wants clarification from DEEP on why they did what they did with the signs.

Christina Evers stated we may need a new permit altogether. Maneesha stated we already have the permit now we just need the signs in the right places.

Saturday 10/15/22 Irish Rowing Regatta is being held and anyone can participate.

Connecticut Federation of Lake Conference is being held 10/22/22 – head of DEEP is speaking and Dennis will use as a mechanism to get facetime and set up a meeting. Connecticut Agricultural also presenting there. Free to attend since Rogers Lake Authority is member.

Public Comment

Dave Evers – bring boat propeller to Hale Propeller in Old Saybrook to save at least \$100 if add Tom's name.

A motion to adjourn was made by Jenell Smith, Maneesha seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 8:12pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

The next meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority will be on Wednesday, November 9, 2022 at 7:30pm.