ROGERS LAKE AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF October 11, 2023

A meeting of the Rogers Lake Authority (RLA) was convened at Rogers Lake Clubhouse at 7:30 PM on October 11th and was called to order by Mark Hastings. The following members were present: Toni Phillips, Maneesha Joshi, Mark Hastings, Jenell Janes, and Dick Smith. There were 4 other attendees. The minutes were recorded by Erica Correia.

The September 13th, 2023 minutes were read aloud.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Toni Phillips and seconded by Maneesha Joshi. Motion passed unanimously with Mark abstaining as he was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget review – Only expenses were clerk, Patrol Boat operator, and fee for boat.

Patrol Boat

- **Review of Last Season –** biggest opportunity was staffing the boat
- **Personnel Planning for Next Season –** Mark will be reaching out to those who applied but didn't end up working this season to find out why and what we can do differently with next year's hires

Steps Forward on Water Quality – Slowly increasing amount of phosphorous, nitrogen, fluoride, bromide, and ortho-phosphate and if continue to increase we could end up with a eutrophic state. Report recommended that residents of the lake reduce fertilizer, use septic systems, and use phosphate free detergents. Mark will send copy of report to Erica so she can post it on Lyme and Old Lyme websites.

Gary Gregory from Conservation Commission suggests that education is key to help with fertilizer and other things getting into the lake and that he and the commission are happy to help with the education piece. He states that killing algae and/or vegetation makes it go to the bottom and starts decomposing and releasing oxygen back into the water. Mark states that RLA originally applied herbicide to 20 acres and this year only had to apply on 4 acres to target the invasive plants.

Gary suggests that Rachel Gaudio at Inland Wetlands be reached out to.

Member of public asked if beavers could be causing the high phosphorous and the RLA answered no and stated that geese are putting a lot of waste into the lake. Jenell suggested that this be discussed with the First Selectman.

DEEP Meeting at Dam on October 16th – Will discuss possible solutions for opening sluice gate. Meeting will be held at 9am. Gary Gregory asks if Kevin Job has been invited and RLA states that he is involved. Gary asks who will be paying for this and RLA members state that there first needs to be a solution and then the financial part can be determined.

Draft RLA Calendar – Toni shared 1st draft. Need to determine if anyone will be doing Quarterly write-up for town submission and have due dates included in the calendar.

NEW BUSINESS

Lake Events – Fishing Tournament October 14th 7am-3pm and October 22nd 8am-2pm

Any other new business:
Situation with sluice gate that resulted in conference call with Dennis Overfield, Mark Hastings, and Maneesha Joshi today. There was a concern that this would harm the environmental habitat. How can RLA tighten up sluice gate operations? Forecast was incorrect which is why the dam was opened with this last situation. DEEP's point of view is that we have had 2 issues this year and they have to address them but want to work with us.
Toni asks if we can wait until rain actually starts to open the gate and Dick and Dennis Overfield say no because it will be too late.
Mark states that we need a way to codify some of Dick's knowledge so that the manual tells what to do depending on weather forecast. Jenell suggests a table is created to help determine rain – lake level – how much to open sluice gate. Dennis Overfield is tracking weather forecast and lake level so we can work with the state to come up with some practical procedures.
Dick does an awesome job controlling the sluice gate but we do need a back-up mechanism in place in the policies and procedure manual. Dennis states that the procedures need to be updated.

Mark suggests that Dennis, himself, and Maneesha meet with DEEP to talk this through and determine what parameters need to be listed. They will try to do this before the November 8th RLA meeting. They can then send a draft to DEEP to share what RLA is thinking.

Yale – indicated they are willing to come speak to us in January or February 2024.

Jenell did reach out to Director of Rowing and President of Rowing Club regarding the noise from rowers. They already knew of the concerns from Dick but Jenell reiterated the concerns in an email and it does seem to be quieter recently.

Public Comment

Andy Martin - Is there any way for anyone to check the boats for fishing tournaments before they go into the lake? RLA is not allowed to approach them.

Jenell Janes made a motion to adjourn at 8:38pm and Maneesha Joshi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, November 8th, 2023.