

RLA Meeting Notes

February 7, 2024

- Meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM
- Meeting minutes were read from January meeting. No corrections needed and a motion was made to accept as read by Jenell Janes and seconded by Maneesha Joshi.
- No budget to share due to the meeting being a week early.
- Mark attended the budget meeting. Highlights of the meeting include;
 - Patrol boats costs reviewed
 - Mussel survey – costs have increased. Initially when the survey was done it was \$10k, now \$18k.
 - Didn't have time to bring up the fact that the RLA wants to increase the hourly rate to \$25. It is referenced in the budget.
 - Final budget meeting is scheduled for 3/5/24. At that point we will know if the new hourly rate was approved.
 - The dam embankment improvements were shared. There were questions but all were ok. The work to help prevent alewives from crashing and dying is needed in order for the RLA to have the ability to raise/lower the sluice as needed based on weather predications. Initially DEEP said they may have some money to help with the budget. Mark needs to follow up on that.
 - Questions received from the Finance committee include:
 - Why does the RLA need to continue to apply herbicides?
 - Needed so that we can continue to keep the lake weed level where it is instead of having the invasive over take the lake again.
 - Why does RLA have to do the mussel survey? Shouldn't DEEP do it?
 - Since Rogers Lake has the presence of the Eastern Pond Mussel, the mussel survey is part of the requirement in order to apply herbicides.
 - CT Natural Diversity database – we report information to this and they provide clearance for RLA to apply herbicides. To get approval, the mussel survey is part of that. We will vote on contract approval at the 3/13 meeting. The budget has to be approved the contract can be signed.
- Patrol Boat – we will not know the pay rate until the final budget approval. Because we do not have the rate, we are not able to post the positions until it is known. We will discuss further at the March meeting.
- Training – Mark spoke with Peter Zack. Peter will help train people. Mark also requested help interviewing future candidates. Maneesha volunteered to help.
- Water Quality – trends are consistent with where they were last year. Andrew McDonald made a recommendation as to when to apply fertilizers. We discussed whether or not to do a mailing to commercial landscapers who apply fertilizers to remind them of the rules and ask them to stay away from the lake shore and or other water areas. More research is needed on who a letter would be sent to. Will discuss again in March.
 - The decision was made to use Yale again for the water quality report. 4 yes; 1 abstain.
- Mandatory FOI class to be held on 2/21. Mark will rsvp for 5 people to attend.

- A grant request to the Connecticut Federation of Lakes will be written to fund a study to measure fertilizer levels (phosphorus, nitrogen, etc.) in tributaries feeding Rogers Lake. Toni to create draft.
- Public Comment:
 - Greg Hack attended. He was very complimentary and shared that the weed treatment has been very effective. The rowers are very supportive of all that the RLA is doing. Greg has expressed interest in being on the RLA should an Old Lyme position become open.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM. Jenell made a motion to adjourn, Maneesha seconded.