Rogers Lake Authority

Regular Monthly
Meeting August 14,
2024 @ 7:30pm
Rogers Lake West Shores Club
House
Dial In Number: tel:+13238137360
ID: 325815393#

1. Call to Order – Mark Hastings called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

2. Attendance – Mark Hastings, Toni Phillips, Joel Hawkins, Dick Smith, Jenell Smith Janes

3. Approval of Minutes – Toni Phillips made a MOTION to accept the minutes from the July meeting. SECOND by Dick Smith. Discussion: None. VOTED: OPPOSED: None. APPROVED. Motion Passed. Jenell Smith Janes abstained.

4. Old Business
    a. Review expenditures for July 2024 – Clerk Fee of $93 and Seasonal Employment $2300. Boat expenses include fuel and repair of starter.
    b. Patrol Boat – Will stop workers on September 15th and will then pull boat and winterize. Current personnel seem to want to stay on next year.
    c. Status DEEP Complaint #2024-4899 and pending Notice of Violation – no real change or progress
    d. Embankment repairs update
        i. Engineering Report – Mark sent comments to RLA members. Engineers have agreed to prepare projections for multiple agencies who have requested them.
    e. Tributary water sampling – Will use site 5 as a control and will also sample at A, B, C. Mark will request more bottles from Yale so this can be completed as this testing is included in the other water testing they are doing for us.
    f. Schedule invasive weed pulling – west side of lake needs to be completed. Tentative date is 9/21 and 9/22.

5. New Business
    a. Lake events:
        i. Rogers Lake Sunfish Regatta September 21,2024 10am to 3pm – rain date September 22
    b. Public notification of September 16,2024 draw down of lake – will post in The Day and on the town website as well as hanging signs.
    c. Article for Old Lyme and Lyme Annual Report – Jenell will draft. Topics to include: water quality testing, sign at boat launch, weed treatment program, seasonal workers, re-alignment of safety as the focus of the boat, dam embankment approval. Must be submitted to town by end of August.
    d. Geese – E.coli at Hains Park – Mark sent article about geese causing E. coli to multiple people who can help including DEEP.
    e. Other Business – week ago we were expecting 5” of rain and Mark contacted DEEP to let them know of potential flooding problem. Didn’t get as much rain as predicted but we do need a process in place for the go-forward.

6. Public Comment
Pat Spratt - Hains Park has gone downhill. So aware that about to lose a resource for our town which is really the entrance to the lake region. We are here to ask if we can help you or if you can help us and can we figure out a plan? Doesn’t think they understand that it will really take serious dredging to help. Lifeguards on duty for a swamp area you can’t go in more than a foot before you hit muck. Should probably be permanently closed until it is fixed. Concerned that Parks & Rec will dig out a little hole but it won’t be nearly enough. A bigger

picture is needed, and they need guidance or where to go so looking to RLA to help as this is the entrance to the lake. Would go to Hains Park for kids to swim, not to go to a place that is ridden with E. Coli.

Pat Spratt - Parks and Rec said they will go a few feet beyond the swimming area. Q: Who does the egg addling and how can I learn to do it?

Michelle Dickey - Q: How did the muck get there? A: Dumping there and decay.

Pat Spratt - Q: How do we make everyone aware of importance of funding for Hains Park? There is power in numbers. Recommendations from RLA to speak with First Selectwoman, Rowing groups, Parks and Rec, Finance, etc. Will also need approval from DEEP.

Pat Spratt - Q: Who is our contact at the DEEP? A: RLA deals primarily with Fish & Wildlife. Mark will look to get them a contact. Will also likely have to work with Army Corps of Engineers. Also there is an endangered species (pond muscle) in the lake so if desired project would dredge these up that would cause another obstacle. Inland Wetlands will also likely need to be involved. Another suggestion is to find a grant or source of funding that could cover the additional cost that will be needed beyond what Parks & Rec is already planning. If they do dredge they would have to bring in clean sand so not battling other issues like the Asian Clam issue. Permits will need to be followed and everything done properly. Recommendation to go to Parks and Rec and meeting with First Selectwoman.

Peter - Conservation Commission should also be involved.

Margaret Kuhn – Thank you all for what you are doing. It is like a well-oiled machine compared to another lake she goes to in NH.

Peter – Is the 2002 Water Quality report available online? A: Mark will send him a copy.

Tom Mondelci – should the fanwort be annihilated by now if it was poisoned? He is seeing big pieces and they look fresh. A: No. We were told it is very difficult because it fragments so much.

7. Adjourn – Dick Smith made a MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 9:02pm. SECOND by Toni Phillips. Discussion: None. VOTED: OPPOSED: None. APPROVED. Motion Passed.

Next Scheduled Meeting Wednesday September 11, 2024