

Lake Oversight Committee
Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen
November 16, 2021 Minutes



Members Present: Doug Cayer, Bob Kamay, Lynn Johnson, Dawn Kamay, Clelland Johnson

Members Absent: Dori Ferrence, Sam Spratlin

Meeting called to order at 6:35.

Correspondence and voicemail – No Update

Approve Minutes:

Bob requested updates to the minutes. We will vote to accept minutes from October 5th at our next meeting.

Old Business:

Weed Treatment

Survey maps still not received

Bob was able to get some feedback from Pond and Lakes. The reason they did not respond to our recent RFP was because some of the requirements were daunting. We will take a closer look at our template and try to eliminate some of these barriers in the future.

Doug has a contact that sits on Lake Committee for Hitchcock Lake in Connecticut. They are severing their relationship with Solitude due to poor service and poor attention to detail. They are reviewing proposal from Ponds and Lakes and will share some info with Doug.

We need contract for weed treatment for Jan 2022 through June 2022. We will evaluate the success of the milfoil treatment on the private pond and in the Union portion of the lake and determine if it needs further treatment and decide on treatment for the south and north basins following the Diquat treatment performed last Spring. Budget for these treatments is already secured.

We agreed that we would supply budget figures to BOS/Finance in February for the Weed Treatment program covering July 2022 to June 2023. We need to begin estimates to determine what our needs are as we move forward with our plans to cut over to Procellacor.

Dam Inspection

Clear Vegetation after Drawdown - Doug has made several calls to the Highway department to get commitment from Brian to remove vegetation. Brian has acknowledged the need, but has not followed through, yet. Doug will continue his efforts to get this addressed. Doug will check with D&B Tree Service to see if they would take on this work if Highway Department cannot complete the cleanup by the end of November.

Culvert at North Basin has been replaced. There is still some clean-up work remaining, but this task was accomplished without dropping water levels beyond approved levels.

Operations Manual – McLure Engineering interested. Our goal is to have this completed prior to our next Dam Inspection. Bob will follow up in the spring.

Drawdown:

Status/results of drawdown – Water level is stable and at the appropriate level. No big issues with shallow wells this year.

Stormwater Management:

Continue discussion about catch basins- Overall Plan

What is the role of the LOC as it relates to stormwater management? Is this one of our responsibilities? We should take action or take it off our agenda. We have talked about this topic, on and off, for a long while, but cannot get any traction on a plan. Bob shared his view that as Lake Oversight this is one of the most important efforts to have to keep the lake healthy.

Without a plan, vision or some kind of roadmap, we are not going to be able to make significant headway. We need an agency with the right background to help us to develop a plan for this body of water. Maybe Pioneer Valley Planning Commission could help us define what this plan entails. Maybe Ponds and Lakes. Could we get support from members of the FHRA? Should we send an RFP to a elicit proposals to help us define this plan?

Since we have already engaged Milone and MacBroom to review the health of the lake, we agreed it would be prudent to devote a large portion of our next meeting as a working session to step through the 2018 report. There may be incremental actions imbedded in this report beyond the very expensive Dredging Plan. Lynn will send the report to all committee members to review prior to the meeting.

New Business:

- Town of Holland Environmental Hazard Mitigation Project – Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Planning Grant - Letter of Support

LOC received request for Letter of support from Bryan C. Haughey, Emergency Management Director and Chief of Police. All agreed this is a worthwhile effort. Dawn made a motion that we send requested letter of support. Bob seconded the motion and all present approved. Doug will draft a letter and send to committee for review before sending to Chief Haughey.

- Discussion of future meeting space (Town Hall or Community Center) – Group agreed it would be best to keep meetings at the Town Hall. Stacy Stout offered the Conservation Room, but Dawn indicated that the WIFI is unreliable. Stacy will look into obtaining a WIFI extender. Stacy and Becky will be creating a sign-up calendar for this space.
- Next Meeting – December 7, 2022 – We will use this as a working meeting review the Dredging Feasibility Study
- Anything else – LOC members. Doug was notified that a town resident was interested in joining the LOC. He is currently working on a dam project with the Corp of Engineers in Uxbridge MA.

Unfortunately, the bylaws restrict our make-up and though we are short a member at this time, it must be filled by someone on the Planning Board. We do not have any at-large seats available at this time. We discussed the fact that Dori has not attended a meeting for quite some time and Doug has been unable to reach her. Stacy mentioned that her husband has resigned from Finance Board and suspects Dori will follow suit. Lynn will reach out to the Planning Board to ask if they will provide another member to sit on the LOC.

Next Meeting:

December 7, 2021 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Note of interest: South Basin Boat Launch has been regraded. The work was completed by Jeff Nielson. He owns a home on the lake and owns a local landscape company. He volunteered his time and equipment and did an incredible job. This will really improve the use of the launch next year.

Dawn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34; Bob seconded. Approved by Dawn, Bob, Clelland, Doug and Lynn.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn

Lynn Johnson
LOC Secretary