

LAKE WARAMAUG AUTHORITY

MEETING OF APRIL 3, 2024

PRESENT: Ed Berner, Dean Sarjeant, Ed Matthews, Kevin Brady, Bill Hopkins, Kevin Brady, Sandy Papsin, Sal Lilienthal, Trooper Joe Hamel.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: Jim Brinton; Washington First Selectman, Rachael Jacobellis, Hugh Frater, Michael Cesari.

Chairman Ed Berner opened the meeting at 6PM.

MINUTES: Minutes were reviewed by members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dean to approve, Ed Matthews seconded the motion. Minutes approved from the April 2023 meeting as presented.

TREASURY REPORT: Sal presented the budget report. Only one expense has been made; winterization and related boat expenses totaling \$ 1,339.50. The three towns have been invoiced for their share of the budget. Motion made by Sandy to approve and seconded by Bill. Motion accepted as presented.

REGATTA SCHEDULE: Sal presented the schedule for the six regattas for this spring beginning on Saturday, April 27 and commencing on Sunday May 19th. He stated the program is similar to last year. The lanes of the course will be installed as soon as the weather improves. He was questioned if the high level of water in the lake would be detrimental, and he stated he did not think so. Sal was very appreciative of the combined cooperation for the events that included personnel from the DEEP, ENCON, State Police, State Park personnel and local first responders. They work well together and have all in place for the events.

MARINE PATROL REPORT FOR THE SUMMER OF 2023: Joe reported that it was a significantly reduced schedule of patrols due to lack of qualified personnel and injuries. There were only 5 actual patrols on the lake.

PROPOSED SAFETY PATROLS AND BUDGET FOR SUMMER OF 2024: Joe very clearly spelled out the new program to be implemented this year on the lake. Even though the budget will increase by about \$ 5,000, he feels that this is the most cost effective and professional direction to take for a safety patrol program for Lake Waramaug. Each of the 15 weekends throughout the summer season are planned to be covered. Each boating patrol will have on board, a State Police Officer from Litchfield Troop L, and a civilian keeper who is medically trained and has a boating license. Each shift will consist of 4 hours. This is a program that was painstakingly worked out primarily by Dean and Joe and is fully supported by the Lake Waramaug Authority.

Joe also stated that each patrol will be responsible to log out the gear and return it; and the number and variety of crafts on the lake will be recorded during each patrol. It is the intention of these patrols to observe, perform safety inspections, educate the boating public, and issue violations as necessary. Ed Matthews questioned if this program would have adequate oversight, and Joe assured him that it would. The program provides for both scheduled and random patrols and will be flexible based on weather conditions and heavy lake usage.

LAKE SURVEY: Ed Berner stated that the survey was sent out to the residents of the three towns via email, and paper surveys were available in each town hall. There was ample opportunity to complete the survey. The time frame for survey submissions is up, but no results have been made public to date, and the Lake Authority is not aware of when those results will be available.

DOCK PERMIT APPROVAL: The Lake Authority works closely with Washington and Warren and their land use office on new docks to ensure that they meet safety standards. Ed Berner gave an example of a recent dock application from a Warren resident who wanted to install a dock extending 90' into the lake. The Lake Authority and 9 neighboring residents submitted letters objecting to this and the Warren Zoning Board of Appeals denied the application. Ed also reinforced that the safe use of the lake is determined by those using it to co-exist with both non – motor craft and motor craft. It is hoped that boaters would operate safely and with consideration of others.

THERE WAS NO PRIVLEDGE OF THE FLOOR... however a question was raised by Washington resident Michael Cesari and allowed. His question was regarding the procedure for a dock. It was explained by Sandy that in the Town of Washington, the application is first submitted to Inland Wetlands for approval, then it proceeds to the Zoning Board, then the Lake Authority. The dock must meet the exact standards presented on the plan for approval. The standard distance from the shore to the end of the dock is 50'. It was suggested that lights be placed on the docks for safety. Dean expressed agreement of this but also noted that residents have been asked to place their street address house # on the dock as well for emergency responses, but most have not done so.

A Motion was made by Sal to adjourn, seconded by Ed Matthews. Motion unanimously approved, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sandy Papsin

Sandy Papsin
Lake Waramaug Authority Secretary