

Town of Lake Lure - Lake Advisory Board

- Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting -



The Lake Advisory Board held their regular monthly meeting at the Lake Lure Municipal Center on Monday, the 12th day of September, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Mark Helms (chairperson)
Joe Pritchett
Gary Johnson
Gary Hasenfus
Dan Breneman
Bill Ashman
Sonya Ledford
Dean Givens, Dir. Lake Ops.
Mgmt. Officer

Non-Attending Members:

Mary Ann Silvey (council liaison)

Call to Order:

Chairperson Mark Helms called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. and asked that the order of special topic agenda item “a” and special topic agenda item “b” be switched.

Approval of the minutes:

Gary Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2016 regular meeting. Bill Ashman seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:

Lake Operations Department – Dean Givens reviewed the department’s report that was sent to board members by email prior to the meeting.

Mr. Givens presented a buoy application submitted by Charles and Emily Yelton requesting that a new buoy be placed at 199 Deerwood Drive. Mr. Givens stated that he does not believe the proposed buoy location meets the requirements for placement of a new buoy and that he doesn’t see the area as a choke point or an area where people would commonly break wake.

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After discussion, Bill Ashman made a motion to support the lake operations department recommendation and deny the request to place a new buoy at 199 Deerwood Drive. Gary Johnson seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Dan Breneman pointed out the number of warnings issued during the month compared to the low number of citations issued and stated that he believes it is a waste of funds to keep issuing warnings without issuing citations. Mr. Givens explained that the Marine Commission has asked that a warning be given for all first time offenses and the practice will continue until the Marine Commission directs the Lake Operations Department otherwise. Mark Helms explained that he has seen a difference in boating this season, especially in the non-motorized traffic, and he believes safety on the lake is improving.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:

Commissioner Webber was present on behalf of LAB liaison Commissioner Silvey. Mr. Webber stated that the Marine Commission is scheduled to meet on September 13th, 2016 and that the Marine Commission requested an update from LAB concerning commercial operations at their meeting.

The board discussed a black rubber raft that has recently been seen around the lake. Mr. Givens explained that the people on the boats in question are training for the federal government.

Special Topics - Consider Recommending Lowering the Lake Approximately Eight Feet Beginning December 1st, 2016 in Order to Allow For Repair of a Small Generator at the Hydroelectric Dam: Board Chairman Mark Helms gave an overview of a request from town staff asking to lower the lake approximately eight feet beginning December 1st, 2016 in order to allow for repair of a small generator at the hydroelectric dam. Dam Operator Donnie McCraw explained what the small generator is used for and what the issues are with the small generator stating that it can't be fixed while it is in place.

Board members showed support for the request to lower the lake this year, but discussed the need to lower the lake again next year as part of the regular third year lowering schedule if it is lowered this year. Mr. Helms explained that there is not time to complete permitting to meet everyone's needs by only lowering the lake this year and not next year as originally scheduled. Mr. Givens explained that people know that the lake goes down every third year and count on the lake being lowered on the regular schedule.

Gary Johnson made a motion to recommend that the lake be lowered approximately eight feet beginning December 1st, 2016 in order to allow for repair of a small generator at the Hydroelectric Dam and that the lake be lowered again next year as part of the regular three year lowering schedule. Dan Breneman seconded and the motion carried with a vote of 6 to 1 in favor.

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Special Topics: Review Commercial Categories Defined by the LAB Subcommittee and Decide if the Specified Categories Needs Specific Rules

Board members discussed tour boat regulations including a recommendation to not allow tour boats in coves, under bridges, or in no-wake zones. Sonya Ledford agreed to provide language used for restrictions on Lake Lure Tours boats at the next meeting for the board to review.

Board members agreed to revisit the topic at the next regular meeting and consider proposing an amendment to the Lake Use Regulations concerning restrictions for tour boat operations.

Board members discussed the fee for commercial licenses for 2017. Mr. Givens explained that the customer service department will be sending out applications for 2017 commercial licenses soon so the commercial license fee for the year needs to be established.

The commercial license fees for 2016 are as follows:

Commercial License Fee	\$38
Commercial License Fee (Service & Real Estate Classifications)	\$22

The Board discussed the fact that the commercial license fee hasn't been raised in three years and discussed ways to determine what an appropriate fee for 2017.

Gary Johnson made a motion to recommend that the commercial license fee be increased to \$50 for 2017. No one seconded the motion.

After discussion, Dan Breneman made a motion to recommend that the commercial license fee be increased to \$41 for 2017 to allow for a two percent increase for the past three years keep up with inflation and that the commercial license fee be the same for all commercial classifications. Joe Pritchett seconded and the vote of approval was unanimous.

The board discussed potential charges for commercial slips, but agreed to revisit the topic at a future meeting.

Board Member Areas of Responsibility Reports:

Fishery & Ecosystem – Mr. Hasenfus stated that he has been seeing a lot more kayak fishermen on the lake, which he believes to be a good sign. Mr. Hasenfus also stated that there have been few dead fish seen in the lake, but explained that dissolved oxygens tends to be lower in the lake in late August through September.

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Public Forum:

Logan Hartzog provided an update on his commercial operation stating the he has transported about 60 groups on his water taxi (about 250 people). Mr. Hartzog explained that most of the trips were two way trips and he estimated that he has spent about 60 business hours on the lake thus far.

Blaine Cox recommended that the board sit at the meeting desk during meetings at the microphones to allow audience members to better hear the board members (especially when they are not facing the audience).

Adjournment: Gary Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:30p.m. Dan Breneman seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Andrea H. Calvert, Town Clerk