Town of
Lake Lure
est. 1927 North Carolina

Lake Lure Lake Advisory Board

February 4, 2019

Call to Order

Chairman Mark Helms called to order the February 4, 2019 meeting of the Lake Advisory Board at 3:32 p.m. at the Lake Lure Town Hall.

Roll Call

Board Members present:
Mark Helms, Chairman
Gary Johnson (via phone conference)
Michael Yelton
Dan Breneman
Bill Ashman
Gary Hasenfus

Town Council Members present:
Mayor Kevin Cooley for Councilman John Kilby

Other Members Present:
Dean Givens, Director of Lake Operations

Absent:
Sonya Ledford

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

The Agenda for the February 4, 2019 meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Hasenfus made a motion to approve the Agenda as presented. Mr. Ashman seconded and all were in favor.**

The Minutes of the January 7, 2018 Board Meeting were reviewed. Mr. Breneman wanted it added that he made a statement after the voting for the 'Waiver of 21' Boat Length Restriction' that 'he was hesitant voting for the motion and that he had an interest in protecting the local contractors'. **Mr. Hasenfus made a motion to approve the Minutes with the addition to Mr. Breneman's statement. Mr. Ashman seconded and all were in favor.**

Election of Officers, Chairman and Co Chairman – Mark Helms

Mr. Helms reviewed with the Board that election of a Chairman and Vice Chairman were due. Mr. Helms stated that he would like to remain Chairman. Mr. Yelton was asked to Co-Chair in which he responded positively.

Mr. Ashman made a motion to reelect Mr. Mark Helms as Chairman of the Lake Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hasenfus and all were in favor.

Mr. Hasenfus made a motion to elect Mr. Michael Yelton as Vice Chairman of the Lake Advisory Board. The motion was seconded by Mr. Ashman and all were in favor.

Special Topic – Mark Helms

Mr. Helms advised the Board that it had a resolution that required them to elect a Board Secretary. There was discussion and it was decided that this resolution could be amended at this time to remove the requirement to elect a Secretary.

Mr. Helms made a motion to amend the established Resolution No. 92-03-24 regarding a Lake Advisory Board Secretary and that one would not be elected as there was no need for one at this time. Mr. Ashman seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Report from Lake Operations Department – Dean Givens

Mr. Givens discussed with the Board the members of the sub-committee to study the commercial model, which would entail what boats (vacation rentals, rental boats, etc.) are actually using as far as time used on the lake. That committee would consist of Ms. Ledford, Mr. Helms, Mr. Kilby and Mr. Johnson. Mr. Ashman also volunteered to help when he is able.

Mr. Givens updated the Board on the dredging progress. They have now moved 15,000 cubic yards of silt and they will be moving to the main channel to open up the shallow navigational layer. Mr. Givens stated that this year the contractor may not be taking as much out of the navigational channel, but he will get it opened up. He stated that it will be a multi year dredging project. This would benefit the larger deep V hulls and tour boats. Mr. Hasenfus asked about Firefly Cove and the dredging of that area. He stated they had a really good offer in dredging that area. Mr. Hasenfus asked Mr. Givens if the Town was going to act on that. Mr. Givens stated that they can look at that once they get the main channel open. Mr. Givens stated that once they get the main projects out of the way they could move to the other areas. Mr. Givens mentioned that Firefly Cove will also be able to reach the spoils pit, however, he wasn't sure if they would need a booster pump, but mentioned that they had also talked about inverting the spoils pit. He discussed this method.

Mr. Hasenfus also asked about the 'debris boom'. Mr. Givens explained its current location and that it would remain there until there came a time for it to be deployed during a storm.

Mr. Helms discussed if Firefly Cove POA needed to move in another direction regarding the pumping and dredging. Mr. Givens stated that the Town was certainly willing to help, but they just didn't have the resources right now and may not for another month. There was discussion that this dredging was being done to make sure the main channel is opened up before boat traffic. Mr. Givens stated that with the Trout Moratorium being lifted it's opened up the opportunity to do some things during the peak season as well as non-peak season. He noted he definitely wants to get the main channel opened up before the peak season starts.

<u>Report from Council Liaison – Mayor Kevin Cooley</u>
Mayor Cooley discussed the spot dredging and that Mr. Givens was talking with Tim Edwards of Edwards Landscaping, who was independently looking at dredging Rumbling Bald Resort due to the large amount of sedimentation at the boat docks and swimming area. Mr. Edwards would have a separate crew and it would not stop or slow the current dredging being done for the Town. Mayor Cooley stated that at this time, due to the sediment that's washed into the lake, that areas affected would not be able to be used by boaters. There had been discussion with Mr. Edwards about putting a barge with a large excavator on the lake and to put down mud mats. They were estimating this work to take about one to two weeks. Rumbling Bald Resort was looking at approximately 5,000 yards of sediment that would need to be moved at $15 a yard and that Mr. Edwards was willing to do this as long as RBR could provide a dump site, which they have an area for. Mr. Edwards believes that he may need the lake lowered one to two feet. There was discussion of the Board regarding the timeframe needed. There was further discussion regarding the tour boats and when their season would begin. Mr. George Wittmer, who was in the audience, stated that as long as the lake was back up by the end of March, it should not affect the tour boats. There was discussion regarding the rowing teams and if it would affect them. Mayor Cooley informed the Board that this has all been looked at. He stated that they would like to begin immediately.

Mayor Cooley also mentioned that Council would like for the LAB to look at their definitions of commercial vessels. There was questions as to if a barge was a commercial boat as well as where barges could be used; for instance, for shoreline construction. Mayor Cooley further suggested that using the barges for shoreline construction would be a great prospective versus lowering of the lake.

Mr. Hasenfus mentioned that he felt there was a new 'normal lake level'. There was discussion that the hydrograph shows that the lake level hovers close to 990' consistently. There was mention that the hydrograph might be off a bit as well as elevation levels could throw the levels off. Mr. Hasenfus stated that he has kept measurements by the water level markings on his boathouse. Mr. Givens reminded the Board that the Dam is being closely managed now and there is full time, 24 hours a day monitoring of the levels so it may not be as it was operated before where it would be allowed to drop a bit and then raised back up. He stated that it should stay at the 990' mark. There was discussion that some town residents have seen a difference in the level when they're going in or out of their boathouses with boats, but there have not been any complaints. It was mentioned that the power generation from the Dam brought in $109,000 last month. Mr. Givens discussed that the smaller generator is not on line yet and that the levels are being maintained by the big generator alone. They felt that the income last month was one of the highest month's incomes.

Mr. Helms asked the Mayor if it would be favorable to make a motion now regarding the lowering of the lake to allow Rumbling Bald Resort time to have the silt removed that is hampering recreation in their area. Mayor Cooley felt that it would be welcomed.

Mr. Ashman made a motion to recommend that Town Council approve the lake to be lowered down 1-2' maximum and to be brought back up by March 15, 2019 to assist the removal of silt from Rumbling Bald Resort. The motion was seconded Mr. Johnson (via telephone conference) and all were in favor.

The Board discussed making sure that all residents knew of the lowering. Esther Lusk, who was present in the audience, stated she would help with getting the word out.

Fishery & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus

The Board was brought up-to-date regarding the Christmas Tree reefs. Mr. Hasenfus mentioned that the contractor, who was supposed to bring more trees out for the reefs, has not done so yet. Mr. Hasenfus explained how the tree reefs last about three years. He mentioned new locations he would like to locate reefs at, one being by the Lake Lure Village Resort by the buoy furthest out away from the cove entrance and another by the big rock cove. He stated that they could drop the trees in (12-15 trees) and create a fishing reef. He mentioned posting the fishing location on the buoys and this would allow fishermen to see the location. Mr. Hasenfus inquired as to if there was room in the budget for Red Fin. There was a brief discussion on if there were any funds.

Lake Structures – Gary Johnson

Mr. Johnson noted there was no new information

Emergency Preparedness & Response – Dan Breneman

Mr. Breneman noted there was no new information

Dredging & Watershed Stabilization – Michael Yelton

Mr. Yelton noted there was no new information that had not been discussed during dredging conversations.

Water Quality – Bill Ashman

Mr. Ashman noted there was no new information

Regulations & Law Enforcement – Sonya Ledford

Ms. Ledford was absent

Public Forum

Discussion regarding rowing shells – Wade and Leslie, who are current Asheville residents and are looking to relocate to Lake Lure, have permitted and brought their rowing shells to the lake. They are asking the Lake Advisory Board for their direction on competitive use of the same. Wade and Leslie use the lake from sunrise to about 8am for competitive rowing and discussed with the Board their thoughts on bringing this sport to the lake. The Board was very positive and there was further discussion on the safety regarding times to use the lake. Mr. Helms mentioned that sailboats and rowing shells did not have limits to the location of use on the lake. Mr. Helms mentioned that in the summer during certain times they would need to use caution in the channel. There was further discussion regarding bringing in other teams and a possible regatta that would bring revenue generation with use of hotels and area businesses. Mr. Ashman offered his assistance in planning events. Mr. Helms stated that he has already discussed the use of the rowing shells on the lake with Town Manager Shannon Baldwin and Mr. Baldwin had no issues with the plan.

The Board was happy with the discussion and offered assistance in helping them find a location to store the shells when not in use.

Adjournment

Mr. Hasenfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:38 pm. Mr. Ashman seconded the motion and all were in favor.

Minutes were transcribed by Kat Canant, Administrative Assistant to LLPD.
The next regular meeting of the Lake Advisory Board meeting will be March 4, 2019 at 3:30 pm.

ATTEST:

____
Mark Helms, Chairman