

Town of Lake Lure Lake Advisory Committee

- Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting -

The Lake Advisory Committee (LAC) held their regular monthly meeting at the Town of Lake Lure Municipal Center on 5th day of February, 2007 at 6:30pm.

Attendees:

Bob Washburn (Chairman)
Chris Braund (Secretary)
Wiley Bourne
Bob Keith
Gary Hasenfus
Blaine Cox
Russ Pitts (Council Liaison)

Non-Attending Members:

Ross Worden

Guests:

Bo Williams

General Meeting Actions:

- Chairman Washburn called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.
- January meeting minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously
- On Tuesday, 2/13 the Marine Commission will meet in a postponed session to review and approve edits to the Lake Structures regulations.
- We will meet with Blue Ridge Ecological at 4:00pm on March 5th. Gary will confirm this time with Blue Ridge.
- Bob Keith read a letter from the Shumakers regarding the need to repair the retaining walls under the bridge to yacht island.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:35p.m.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:**Fishing & Ecosystem – Ross Worden reported:**

- No report.

Lake Structures – Wiley Bourne reported:

- Wiley and Chris completed their inventory of cluster moorings and marinas. They will assess their findings, do some research with the town and have recommendations ready for our next meeting.
- Extended review and discussion of proposed amendments to the lake structures regulations. Bob, Wiley and Blaine will add language to define requirements for the construction of a commercial usage lake structure. This will work in concert with the prohibited usage section.
- Action: we need to develop lake commercial license criterion for yacht club commercial usage. These parameters need to be developed in a manner that intends to preserve the original intent/impact of the R1 zone.

Dredging – Bob Washburn reported:

- Excavation for Rumbling Bald resort marina is planned, but is awaiting approval from Kevin Barnett at the state.

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- The value of our old dredge was established at \$70,000 and it is to be offered up as a government surplus item. \$70,000 of work has been performed by Lake Norman Dredging - which they are planning to take the swap of the dredge in exchange - but the town still has to offer it up for bids.

Law Enforcement – Chris Braund reported:

This month's town newsletter contains an update on the US Coast Guard Auxiliary program at Lake Lure. I spoke with Jim Boxerman about the program in order to get a better sense of how it fits into the bigger picture of lake safety, education and enforcement.

- The auxiliary is a local group that is receiving Coast Guard training and certification that enables them to provide specific services to the boating community.
- There is no planned or expected Coast Guard presence or oversight of boating activities on the lake. The relationship between the local auxiliary units and the larger coast guard is typically uni-directional...the local units may be called upon to assist the Coast Guard in times of need (e.g., coastal natural disasters)
- The local group plans to provide the following services at Lake Lure:
 - Boat Safety Checks: performed at launch ramps, free of charge and free of tickets. Program started last year. Will be held this year on April 14th from 10-3 at the town ramp and Rumbling Bald Resort.
 - Boater Education Courses: currently completing testing and certification to be able to offer these starting this year
 - On-Water Patrol: Likely a 2008 start. Patrols will be very similar to the VIPS/COPS patrols that Chief Hester will start this year (boater assist, education and police alerts, no direct enforcement). The Coast Guard has detailed requirements for any patrol boat and operators (must have two). Boats will display a USCGA banner. One of the challenges at the moment is the requirement to have a local communications base station and radio tower.
 - Data Collection: I added this one and Jim agreed that it would fit well with their duties. If the LAC or Marine Commission needs observational data on lake usage, the auxiliary patrols could assist.
- Clyde Ingersoll and Jim Boxerman are the contacts for the group.
- They have meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 4PM at 718 Buffalo Creek Road.

Action Items:

- I plan to attend a meeting of the local auxiliary and to establish a working relationship between them and the LAC
- We're soon to have police officers, police volunteers, Wildlife Resources and USCGA patrols on the lake. If integrated well, all this patrolling could reduce the instances of unsafe or illegal boating activities that go unaddressed...while also reducing the more unpopular enforcement activities (like random safety checks by the police). If not done well, all this patrolling could be viewed by the public as regulatory overkill for a lake of our size and good safety record. As we add more enforcement and safety presence to the lake, we'll need to ensure that there is good communication between these groups and the public, and that all are working from the same set of procedures and expectations (set by the LAC and Marine Commission). Any changes to rules, regulations or procedures need to be effectively communicated to all of these groups.

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Recreation & Commercial Activities – Blaine Cox reported:

- The sponsor of a dragon boat race will have a luncheon, presentation and site evaluation on February 15th. This is typically done as a charity fundraiser and would be a spring or fall event designed to generate interest and traffic to the area during the offseason. Doug Long is spearheading the concept locally and has raised the money for the site evaluation. Blaine will try to attend on the 15th.

Emergency Preparedness / Water Quality - Bob Keith Reported:

- In the winter months the Fireboat is moved from the launch ramp at Rumbling Bald to the EMS Boathouse near the dam. This enables us to connect electric heaters and install them in the area of the pump and pipes to keep the water from freezing and eliminate the need to drain the water from the boat after each use.
- The boat is checked and maintained weekly throughout the year similar to all other emergency and safety equipment and apparatus.
- Although we had a couple of dozen emergency calls in January (est), none called for the use of the Fireboat.
- Nothing to report on Water Quality report. However, I have a growing concern that we might need to augment the VWIN and summer bacteria monitoring programs to assure the long-term quality of the lake water. I plan to do more research into this concern over the next few weeks and would like to carve out some time in one of our future meetings.
- Wiley moved that the LAC recommend to the Marine Commission/Town Council that they direct town staff to produce monthly reports, in Excel spreadsheet format, of all water quality testing activities and results. Blaine seconded, approved unanimously.

Dam Operations & Sewer System - Gary Hasenfus reported:

- Still working on powerwashing at the dam. Painting will begin when the temperature gets back up above 50.
- They've completed smoking 23 manholes and plan to complete the remainder this week. No significant problems have been found (including Havnaer's Cove).

VWIN Coordinator, Gary Hasenfus reported:

- The annual reports have been distributed (10th year of the study).
- All of our streams were rated Excellent or Good. There are a number in WNC rated as Average or Poor.

Recap of Motions Passed:

- The LAC recommends to the Marine Commission/Town Council that they direct town staff to produce monthly reports, in Excel spreadsheet format, of all water quality testing activities and results.

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Recap of Open Action Items:

From December meeting

- [Wiley and Chris] Conduct an inventory of the cluster moorings and marinas. We will then flag all that appear to be out of compliance for further review and dispensation by the town.
February update: inventory complete, assessment of findings in progress.

From January meeting

- [Chris] Work with Chief Hester on a solution for disabling boats that are in violation.

From February meeting

- [Chris] Attend a meeting of the Lake Lure Coast Guard Auxiliary unit.
- [LAC] Develop lake commercial license criterion for yacht club commercial usage. These parameters need to be developed in a manner that intends to preserve the original intent/impact of the R1 zone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Braund, Secretary LAC