

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 10th day of September, 2007 at 6:30 pm.

Attendees:

Chris Braund (Secretary & V-Ch)
Bo Williams
Gary Hasenfus
Wiley Bourne
Russ Pitts (Council Liaison)

Non-Attending Members:

Bob Keith
Blaine Cox

Guests:

Jeanine Noble
Doug Long
Dean Givens

General Meeting Actions:

- Vice-Chairman Braund called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.
- The committee recognized Bob Washburn's resignation after 15 years of dedicated service to the town as chairman of the LAC. There will be an acknowledgement of his contributions at tomorrow night's council meeting. Russ will initiate the process to appoint his replacement. Once the committee is fully staffed, we will re-evaluate officer assignments. Chris will fulfill chairman responsibilities in the interim.
- There was a discussion of the draft Lake Operations Director job responsibilities document. Modifications will be made as follows:
 - relax the Certified Lake Manager requirements while keeping this as a goal
 - add weekend work requirements during peak season
 - specify that the position should report directly to the town manager
 - clarify the law enforcement responsibilities and training requirementsA motion was made by Bo that the modified document be considered approved by the Lake Advisory Committee and provided to the Town Manager for any additional modification and job posting [e.g, appropriate adjustments to the job title, addition of EEO language]. Wiley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
- There was a discussion about the procedures for handling requests related to no-wake buoys. It was agreed that this should be the responsibility of the new lake operations role and that the LAC should not have to evaluate and respond to each request. Additionally, GIS technology should be used in mapping and managing all buoy locations on the lake. In the meantime, Chris will direct the town staff to move the Snug Harbor buoy back to its prior location in front of the Lamm boathouse. He will also respond to the 3 requestors of new buoys (Robbins, Nettles, Lloyd) that their request has been received and will be evaluated during the winter season, subsequent to the hiring of the lake operations director.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:

Lake Structures – Wiley Bourne reported:

- In its August meeting, the Town Council passed the proposed revisions in the Lake Structures ordinance that all of us have been working on since early in the year.
- There was discussion of the impact and enforcement process for the new lake structures regulations pertaining to commercial or multi-dwelling use. Section 94.12 introduces a review

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process for new lake structures (or modifications to existing) that are intended for commercial or multi-dwelling use. This section would not apply to existing structures unless they are being altered. Section 94.15 (O) - Prohibitions applies to any lake structure, new or existing, being utilized for commercial or multi-dwelling purposes adjacent to an R-1 lot.

- Gary moved that the LAC advises the Town Council to make a request to the Zoning Administrator to inform the owners of any known or anticipated lake structures with an intended commercial or multi-dwelling use that they may be in violation of the new 94.15 (O) prohibition of the Lake Structures Regulations. These owners should be informed of the need to apply and receive approval from Town Council for their intended use of the lake structure. Bo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Fish & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus reported:

- Summary of recommendations from Blue Ridge Ecological: Trout stocking isn't that effective due to the loss of trout from winter harvesting, migration up feeder streams or mortality from increased water temperature and siltation. Rather than continuing to stock trout, efforts should be focused on the following activities:
 - Establishing underwater reefs and protection (e.g, Christmas tree disposal)
 - Stocking Bluegill as feedstock
 - Removing carp populations
- We should also to establish a relationship with NCWRC in order to take advantage of some of the fishery management resources at their disposal. Russ will discuss making a formal request from the Marine Commission. Dan Fogle is our area's primary NCWRC officer.
- Discussion about rescinding the annual catch and release restrictions. We'll vote on this at the next meeting.

Dredging – Chuck Place submitted the following report:

- Clint and I met with Rick Miller yesterday and took the boat out to Laurel Landings Cove [where Mike Harris lives]. One of his employees had previously surveyed the cove, but Rick wanted to know the lay of the land above the cove to see if there is a location for disposal of the material using filter bags. He will give us a couple of proposals with different options.
- Clint met with Dennis Keys today and they toured the cove, as well. Dennis will also give us one or more proposals.
- As a separate issue, Rick will look at his company taking over the screening and sale of material from our impoundment areas. [We recently became aware that Ronnie Austin, who had been cleaning out the impoundment areas for us, has declared bankruptcy.]

Emergency Preparedness – Bob Keith

- No report

Dam Operations, Sewer System, Water Quality – Blaine Cox submitted the following report:

- First of all, there was a fish kill below the dam on 08/29/07. Channel 13 was there so we may have had a report on the news. Neither William nor Donny knew of anything related to the dam or sewer work underway that may have caused it. I stopped at the little fruit/vegetable stand

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below the dam and saw some of the dead fish. The owner of the stand said there were more fish a bit downstream.

- The sewer work is underway and will take a few more weeks to complete. The new valve has not been received yet so its installation is still some time away.
- The work continues in the dam on relocating the electrical panels and it, too, will continue for a few more weeks before completion.
- The lake level can now be monitored automatically with a lake-level gauge that has been installed at the dam.
- The drought has caused the use of generators to only occur every two or three days unless there is significant rainfall. As the drought continues, the income from the hydro plant has dropped to very low levels.
- Here are the August fecal testing results. Only Pool Creek, Marina and Beach show results worth noting.

Sampling Location	Colonies Per 100ml
Pool Creek	52
Beach	37
Marina	60
River	21
Firefly Cove	9
Timber Cove	8
Gray Logs	4
Tryon Bay	3
Sunset Cove	3
Hauners Cove	20
Bald Mnt.	2
Village Resort	1

VWIN Coordinator – Bo Williams reported:

- Bo just sent out the latest report. Nothing out of the ordinary in the results.

Recreation & Commercial Activities – Bo Williams reported:

- Doug Long presented an update on the evolving plans for the Dragon Boat races. There was a discussion about the potential use of these boats in the main body of the lake, during peak and non-peak seasons. Concerns were raised about navigation hazards due to their length and lack of maneuverability. The LAC advised that, on balance, the river channel remains the best option for Dragon Boat activity. If year-round use is desired, the LAC further recommends gaining the support of impacted residents along the river channel and close coordination with town dredging activities.
- Bo moved that the LAC supports a modification of the original Dragon Boat request (approved by the Marine Commission) to accommodate four 30-foot boats (rather than two 40-foot boats) for the event. Wiley seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

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Law Enforcement – Chris Braund reported:

- A group of 17 citizens signed a letter to Chief Hester noting the increased police patrol on the lake this summer and commending the professionalism of the enforcement. “We welcome and support the actions these officers are taking to keep our lake safe and enjoyable.” I’ll distribute copies of the letter during our meeting. The committee acknowledged the increase in police patrol of the lake this summer – in terms of frequency, effectiveness and positive public perception.
- **Boat Permit Sales (through Sept 4)**

Resident – Annual Motorized Over 10hp	885 sold	1000 annual limit
Resident – Motorized Peak Weekday Only (over 10hp)	6 sold	250 annual limit
Non-Resident – Annual Motorized	44 sold	50 annual limit
Non-Resident – Motorized Peak Weekday Only	18 sold	50 annual limit

Note: the annual limits are only in place for permit sales through Labor Day. Since off-season traffic is not an issue, permits for the remainder of the year may be sold in excess of the limits.

Comparing 2007 vs 2006 (both through 9/4):

- Total boat permits are up 1%
 - Non-motorized permits are up 12%
 - Annual motorized permits are virtually the same
 - Weekly motorized permits are down 25%
 - Daily motorized permits are down 42% (non peak season only)
 - Fishing boat permits are down 26%
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- It’s time for the town to send out the renewal applications for lake commercial licenses to have them returned by November 1. I’m working on getting them prepared for printing and mailing.
 - Review of proposed changes to the boat permit sticker design (submitted by Linda Ward and the lake patrol officers). Bo moved that the LAC supports the new design of the boat permits and further recommends requiring a permit on each side of the boat. All permit stickers can be of uniform color, but the color scheme should change annually. Wiley seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.
 - Two action items arose from a discussion of the Camp Care boat permit request for 2008. Russ will discuss their application with the Mayor and will provide direction to the town staff. Chris will draft revised language for commercial boating in the Lake Use regulation and the LAC will review at our next meeting. The purpose is to remove the ambiguity in the definition of what constitutes a commercial boating activity.
 - The Hickory Flotilla of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary were granted temporary boat permits to participate in the Olympiad. Along with members of the local USCGA, they participated in the boat parade and assisted in the water events. The local auxiliary is still in the process of training to receive certification to perform their own patrol.
 - Lake patrol statistics to date (next page):

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2007 Police Log	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOT
Lake – Alcohol Violation													0
Lake – Boat Permit Check				26	39	19	0	12					96
Lake – Boater Assist				1	0	0	0	1					2
Lake – Boating While Impaired					1								1
Lake – Breaking Wake Violation								5					5
Lake – Civil Citation				1	6	1	8	7					23
Lake – Cove Check	54	0	0	331	539	587	598	900					3009
Lake – Fishing License Check				24	28	6	0	3					61
Lake – Life Jacket Violation							2	3					5
Lake – Ordinance Violation													0
Lake – Overturned Boat							1						1
Lake – Patrol	2	0	0	17	32	35	35	48					169
Lake – Reckless Boater								1					1
Lake – Pulling Too Many On a Tube							5	7					12
Lake – Safety Check				2	36	11	13	0					62
Lake – Skiing Violation								1					1
Lake – Stranded Boat				2	1	1	0	1					5
Lake – Towed Stranded Boat					1	0	2	1					4
Lake – Unauthorized Swimmer							1	10					11
Lake – Verbal Warning					1	1	7	16					25
Lake – Warning Citation					1	1	1	4					7
TOTAL PATROL HOURS							63						63

Recap of Motions Passed:

- The draft Lake Operations Director job responsibilities document (as modified) is considered approved by the Lake Advisory Committee and provided to the Town Manager for any additional modification and job posting [e.g, appropriate adjustments to the job title, addition of EEO language].
- The LAC advises the Town Council to make a request to the Zoning Administrator to inform the owners of any known or anticipated lake structures with an intended commercial or multi-dwelling use that they may be in violation of the new 94.15 (O) prohibition of the Lake Structures Regulations. These owners should be informed of the need to apply and receive approval from Town Council for their intended use of the lake structure.
- The LAC supports a modification of the original Dragon Boat request (approved by the Marine Commission) to accommodate four 30-foot boats (rather than two 40-foot boats) for the event.

Action Items:

- [Russ] Initiate the process for the Town Council to appoint a replacement member of the LAC.
- [Chris] Direct the town staff to move the Snug Harbor buoy back to its prior location in front of the Lamm boathouse. Also: respond to the 3 requestors of new buoys (Robbins, Nettles, Lloyd) that their request has been received and will be evaluated during the winter season, subsequent to the hiring of the lake operations director.

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- [Russ] Discuss the Camp Care 2008 boat permit application with the Mayor and will provide direction to the town staff.
- [Chris] Draft revised language for commercial boating in the Lake Use regulation and the LAC will review at our next meeting. The purpose is to remove the ambiguity in the definition of what constitutes a commercial boating activity.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Braund, Secretary LAC