

# Town of Lake Lure - Lake Advisory Board

## - Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting -

The Lake Advisory Board held their regular monthly meeting at the Town of Lake Lure Municipal Center on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2008 at 5:35 p.m.

### **Attendees:**

Chris Braund (Chairman)  
Bo Williams (vice-chair)  
Gary Hasenfus  
Bob Keith  
Dean Givens (DLO)  
Wiley Bourne  
Jeanine Noble (Council Liaison)

### **Non-Attending Members:**

Harvey Harris  
Robin Proctor

### **Guests:**

Blaine Cox

### **General Meeting Actions:**

- Chariman, Chris Braund, called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.
- After discussion, Bob Keith made a motion, seconded by Wiley Bourne, to approve the minutes of the September 2008 regular meeting with a noted adjustment to the action items (removal of an action related to the lighted fountain proposal). The vote of approval was unanimous.
- See below for individual reports
- Bo Williams made a move to adjourn the meeting at 7:00p.m., seconded by Bob Keith. The vote of approval was unanimous.

### **Public Forum:**

- The board evaluated a written proposal from Doug Long that outlined an expansion of the dragon boat racing operations. This proposal will be presented to the Marine Commission. This purpose of this memo is to provide the Commission with additional insights and perspectives as they evaluate the request. Rather than being limited to race-centered practices and activities for the (currently) 2 organized races per year at Lake Lure, the intent is to utilize the non-summer seasons to hold practice sessions, instructional camps, seminars, recreational paddling events, etc. It is the expectation that participant fees will be charged to offset expenses. The organization is a non-profit 501c-3 entity and proceeds go to local charities. There were two main components to the request:

- 1. Use of the dragon boats in the main lake rather than just the river channel. This would be done for practices only (not racing) when:*
  - a. River conditions make boat use not viable*
  - b. All four boats are being used for practice, instruction or recreational sessions*

*Use of the dragon boats in the main lake would subject to these restrictions:*

- a. Use during the spring, fall and winter seasons only (excludes summer: Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day)*
- b. A volunteer, motorized escort safety boat will be present for every two dragon boats*
- c. All crew members will wear PFDs and will have instructions on capsizing procedures*
- d. All steerpersons will be certified*

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2. *That the four dragon boats (and up to 2 additional ones) be granted a permanent waiver of the town's annual non-motorized boat registration fee in recognition of their charitable cause.*

After discussion of the proposal, the following motion was made by Bo Williams and seconded by Bob Keith. The vote of approval was unanimous.

The Lake Advisory Board has the following observations and recommendations on this request:

1. Dragon Boat racing, as it has been introduced and operated on Lake Lure, can be a positive contribution to the community—both recreationally and in the support of local charities.

Originally conceived as a one-weekend festival, the dragon boat racing now occurs twice each summer in the river channel (also during the Olympiad). The Board feels that further expansion into year-round activities, with associated fee revenues, constitutes a lake commercial operation under the Lake Use Regulations.

As a commercial operation, the Lake Lure Dragon Boat Racing (LLDBR) organization would need to go through the lake commercial licensing request and approval program. Applications for the 2009 season are due on November 1st. The implications of this process on the organization are:

- The number of boats, timing and manner of usage will be evaluated and factored into the overall commercial capacity model for the lake. Because the usage is off-season, there should be minimal capacity restraints.
  - The Marine Commission will approve or deny all applications annually
  - Commercial non-motorized boat fees are slightly higher than the fees for non-commercial boats (currently \$35 vs. \$22).
  - There is a commercial license application fee and application forms to complete (currently \$
  - Only the dragon boats need to be licensed in this program...motorized support boats provided by volunteers are not considered part of the commercial operations. Motorized boats owned and operated by the business would be, however.
  - An approved commercial license covers all activities for the full year...it will not be necessary to make separate requests of the Council/Marine Commission for each event.
2. The Board has concerns with the operation of dragon boats in the lake during the shoulder season weekends (September, October, April, May). These are periods that have a not-insignificant amount of motorized boat traffic from tours, pontoons and

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towed activities. The combination of these activities, the waves generated by their wakes and the limited maneuverability of dragon boats and their low center of gravity---all combine to form a picture of questionable safety. Suggested mitigations:

- Limit the use of the dragon boats on the main lake to weekdays during the shoulder seasons. Weekends during the winter season should be fine.

and/or

- Limit the use of dragon boats on the main lake to the upper end of Buffalo Bay – using the launch ramp and beach at Rumbling Bald Marina as a base of operations. While this doesn't avoid traffic altogether, this area is larger than the main channel of the lake (western arm) and is not traveled by the Lake Lure Tour boats.

### 3. With respect to the waiver of fees (and of length restrictions as well, for the 29' dragon boats exceed the 28' maximum length of watercraft on the lake):

- The town has a long practice of not granting permanent fee waivers. For example: the Boy Scout organization has to annually request a fee waiver from the Town Council. The only exception to this policy has been written into the Lake Use Regulations: permanent waivers for volunteer fire and emergency workers.
- Fee waivers have not been provided for other not-for-profit organizations that operate ongoing, commercial operations on the lake (e.g., Camp Lurecrest). The fees are part of their operations overhead and, from the town's perspective, necessary to offset the costs of administering the licensing program.

### **Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:**

#### **Lake Operations Administrator – Dean Givens reported:**

- Dean reported that the new underwater camera is here and ready for operation, both for Dean and for William's use at the Dam.
- Dean is getting good feedback regarding the fish caught in the lake.
- Dean mentioned that the LAB needs to begin looking at and considering what they want to do next year as far as stocking the lake. There is an \$8,000 budget. The N.C. Wildlife prefers that more fish habitats be built, and Dean will be doing that. Gary Hasenfus will look into preparing a plan for stocking some type of fish for the 2009 season.
- Lake levels are at full pond (990 ft. MSL), which is probably 4"-6" higher than some observers think. The daily lake elevation is posted to the town website. Dean will verify its accuracy and report back to the LAB Members.

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### **Town Council / Marine Commission Liaison – Jeanine Noble reported:**

- No Report

### **Emergency Preparedness & Response – Bob Keith reported:**

- No Report

### **Dredging & Watershed Stabilization – Harvey Harris reported:**

- No Report

### **Commercial & Recreational - Bo Williams reported:**

- No Report

### **Fishery & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus reported:**

- The recommended amendments to the fishing regulations (in Lake Use Regulations) that were first presented to the Marine Commission in July will be addressed in a public hearing during the Commission's October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Lake Structures – Wiley Bourne reported:**

- Wiley reported on the progress in addressing dilapidated lake structures. The Community Development Department (assisted by Dean, Clint Calhoun and the Rutherford County building inspector) identified 7 dilapidated structures presently in the lake. 3 of these were determined to be beyond repair. Letters were sent to all 7 owners advising them of their requirement to repair/fix/or remove the dilapidated structures--or the Town will do so and send the bill to the owner. All owners have agreed to full cooperation—one has even been removed.

### **Dam & Sewer Operations, Water Quality – Robin Proctor reported:**

- No Report

### **Regulations & Law Enforcement - Chris Braund reported:**

- The LAB recommendations on signage for town-owned lake structures, discussed at a previous meeting, was approved by the board and delivered to Dean for implementation.

### **Other Business**

- None

### **Recap of Motions Passed:**

- The LAB has evaluated the proposal by the Lake Lure Dragon Boat Racing organization and has prepared it's opinions and recommendations for the Marine Commission.

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### Open Action Items:

Open Actions	Owner	Update
Prepare a fishery management plan that addresses a comprehensive set of activities—including fish stocking.	Gary and Dean	Sources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blue Ridge Ecological recommendations</li> <li>▪ Discussions with NC WRC</li> <li>▪ Input from local fishermen</li> <li>▪ Budget</li> </ul>
Convene an LAB subcommittee to meet with town attorneys and town council with the purposed of developing grandfathering provisions for the Lake Structures regulations. (3/08)	Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will schedule workshop for January 2009</li> </ul>
Prepare draft Standard Operating Procedures manual chapters for each area of responsibility. (3/08)	All LAB members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Templates provided</li> <li>• Law Enforcement draft completed</li> <li>• Dredging &amp; Watershed stabilization draft completed</li> </ul>
Prepare and submit the draft Lake Advisory Committee bylaws for review and approval by the town council/marine commission. (1/08)	Chris	

### Closed Action Items:

Closed Actions	Owner	Update
Collect lake temperature readings from VWIN; format and post to town website	Dean Chris	Done
Draft an initial version of committee member responsibilities [by area] (12/07)	Chris	Distributed to all Board members, included in draft Charter/Bylaws
Work with town staff and police department to communicate the elimination of the winter catch & release period. (12/07)	Gary	Done
Request support from town staff in preparing minutes from tape recordings of LAC meetings. (1/08)	Chris	Done
Provide standard operating procedures templates to each member for their area of responsibility. (2/08)	Chris	Done

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Closed Actions	Owner	Update
Obtain signage for the non-motorized boat launch ramp near the ABC store. (1/08)	Bo & Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Just need to add “LL boat permit required” language</li></ul>
Identify the language needed to clarify the “annual” on the annual boat permits and in the guide to lake rules. (3/08)	Dean & Chris	Done
Prepare a letter to the LAB & Marine Commission on his problems with Todd’s RV & Marine. (5/08)	Dean	Done
Communicate to Ron Morgan and the fireboat crew the sensitivity to the wake generated by the fireboat...for other boaters, lakefront properties. They should make every effort possible to minimize high-speed runs near other boats. (6/08)	Bob	Done

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### Open Recommendations to the Council / Marine Commission:

Recommendation	Date	Status
The Lake Advisory Board recommends that the town install a channel through the peninsula that separates the beach area from the mouth of Pool Creek.	May 2008	Town staff evaluated the site during the week of 10/13 – DWQ will also be consulted.
The Lake Advisory Board recommends that Town Council consider re-naming the Town Marina to the Washburn Marina in honor of the Washburn Family and their service to Lake Lure.	June 2008	Done Next action: new signage (action item for Director of Lake Operations)
The Lake Advisory Board recommends to the Town Council (1) that the town consider banning the feeding of all waterfowl by residents and/or tourists on town property in an effort to eventually eliminate the geese problem, and (2) that the town should look into solutions for long-term geese control.	July 2008	(1) Done
The Lake Advisory Board recommends to the Marine Commission the amendment of the fishing regulations (size and creel limits) in section 1.02 of the Lake Use Regulations to match the default statewide fishing regulations.	July 2008	Next action: public hearing at October Marine Commission meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Messer  
Administrative Assistant