

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 14th day of September, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

Attendees:

Mark Helms (chairperson)
Joe Pritchett
Dan Breneman
Gary Johnson
Gary Hasenfus
Bill Ashman
Dean Givens, Dir. Lake Ops.
Clint Calhoun, Environment
Mgmt. Officer
Mary Ann Silvey (council
liaison)
Chris Braund (Town Manager)

Non-Attending Members:

Derek Papesh

Call to Order:

- Chairperson Mark Helms called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of the minutes:

- Gary Johnson made a motion to approve the August 6, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. Bill Ashman seconded and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Public Forum:

Wally Gilbert described the boat traffic in the area of the lake near where he owns property and pointed out that, per the town's buoy map, buoy number 29 and number 30 should be located in the area near his property, but buoy number 30 is missing. Lake Operations Director Dean Givens agreed to look into replacing the missing buoy.

Bill Beason of 162 Tiny Drive asked the board to consider a noise ordinance for the lake. Mr. Beason cited engine noise as his main concern.

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Blaine Cox, former member of the Lake Advisory Board, explained that per current regulations, boat motors must be factory muffled and that part of the reason that the no wake time on the lake doesn't end until 7am each morning is to try to control the amount of noise created by boats in the early morning hours.

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.

Town Council / Marine Commission Liaison Report – Commissioner Mary Ann Silvey reported that there have recently been concerns about the lower lake level.

Fishery & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus reported:

- Mr. Hasenfus stated that previously studies have been conducted to determine how successful long term plans to add fish habitat to the lake have been. Mr. Hasenfus suggested that a fishery study be conducted in May of 2016 (previous studies were done in May of 2007 and May of 2011). Mr. Hasenfus pointed out that the 2 previous studies were conducted by professional companies, neither of which is available to do the upcoming study, but suggested use of the university system for the study. The board asked Mr. Hasenfus to gather university information and after discussion Joe Pritchett made a motion that the board authorize Mr. Hasenfus to find a group to do the May, 2016 study. Dan Breneman seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Mr. Hasenfus also presented pictures of damage done by beavers around the lake.

Lake Structures – Gary Johnson reported:

- No Report

Emergency Preparedness & Response – Dan Breneman:

- Mr. Breneman stated that he met with Lake Operations Director Dean Givens on August 3 and that he is continuing to read SOP manual.

Dredging & Watershed Stabilization – Joe Pritchett reported:

- No report.

Water Quality – Bill Ashman reported:

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- No Report

Regulations & Law Enforcement – Derek Papesh reported:

- No Report - absent

Other Business

Presentation by Gary Johnson and Dan Breneman and Discussion of Boat Permit rates and Boat Density on the Lake – Mr. Breneman and Mr. Johnson provided handouts addressing specific objectives and discussed safety needs on the lake and proposed the following potential options:

1. Motorized permit fees- no change for third straight year- last increase was 2013-10%
2. Delete daily non-motorized
3. Increase daily non-motorized fee recommendation \$15
4. Increase weekly non-motorized \$30 to bring in line with cost of processing these permits
5. Create nonresident non-motorized category:
(to match motorized non-resident/resident)
In proportion to motorized, non-resident fee would be \$89
Based on reality, a possible fee structure could be same as commercial which is \$44.00
6. To implement seasonal non-motorized requirements for weekend usage, approximately a 14 week period
From 10am until sunrise the next day in peak season (Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend), activity should be limited to within 75' of shore, or in no wake zones. Crossing from shore to shore should be at a 90 degree angle. If traveling in groups, stay within a boat length together.
7. How to best inform all non-motorized permit owners of Lake Lure nonmotorized watercraft regulations

The board discussed a need for more enforcement and patrol presence on the lake to ensure greater compliance of the current lake regulations.

The board asked Mr. Givens if any of the proposed rate changes would allow him to secure additional lake patrol and asked him to prepare a goal of the number of lake patrol hours needed for the next meeting and to make a recommendation as to which of the recommendation

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proposed by Mr. Breneman and Mr. Johnson would be most helpful to his department from a patrol standpoint.

The board also agreed to review the information they were given and revisit the topic at the October meeting.

Lake Level Discussion (and establishment of subcommittee to review standard operating procedures and make any recommendations) – Barbara Bagwell stated that she has been told that the lake levels are the same as they have been, but stated that the water is lower and sited the danger of getting into boats that are lower in boathouses.

Donnie explained that if there is a predicted 40-100 percent chance of a storm in the area he has to be prepared and stated that the lake still operates at 990, but when there is a chance of rain and the rain doesn't come the lake takes longer to recover due to low amount of rainfall in the area. Mr. Helms asked if there are dangers to holding the lake higher. Mr. McCraw stated that he has to give himself time to get to the dam and make a decision. When asked how quickly the lake rises Mr. McCraw stated that it is impossible to predict because it depends on the amount of rain falling as well as other factors including conditions of tributaries, rainfall above the lake and many of other factors. Mr. McCraw stated that he has seen the lake rise as much as 2 inches in 20 minutes and that he has to operate the plant under the plan that was approved by town council.

Ester Lusk pointed out that no one has lived at the dam since 2010, but that this year the lake has been consistently down 6 inches.

Donnie explained that low amounts of rainfall contribute to the slow rise in the lake level.

Town Manager Chris Braund explained that there haven't been any changes in procedure and that staff will operate by the policy council approved until the policy is amended.

After further discussion, Dan Breneman, Gary Johnson and Barbara Bagwell were appointed to serve on a committee to review the current lake level operating procedure.

Lake Lure Tours Review of Summer Operating Performance and Proposed Operating Protocols -

Bill Beason presented a plan drafted by the town in 1987 and stated that around that time there was a considerable problem with Lake Lure Tours tour guides. Mr. Beason stated that he is leery of changing the agreement with Lake Lure Tours and he doesn't want any more wakes.

Barbara Bagwell asked that the regulation be kind to both the tour operations and the lake front residents.

Dean read an email request from Lake Lure Tours asking to increase the rpm restriction for tour boat driver to 2100 and allow the driver to use their own judgement.

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Gary Johnson stated that he doesn't think it is a good idea to leave so much up to the discretion of the boat driver since not all boat drivers will have the same sense of safety.

Mr. Helms stated that he has notice since the board agreed to temporarily reduce the restrictions for Lake Lure Tours this summer to allow them more time to complete their tour, he has noticed more tour boats have been coming to the dam.

Mr. Breneman stated that he feels the letter from lake Lure tours does not say enough and pointed out that the regulation are made to ensure that the residents are protected.

Town manager Chris Braund explained that the Town and Lake Lure Tours are currently near the end of a 10 year contract and that changes to the contract must be agreed upon by both the town and Lake Lure Tours.

After discussion, Dan Breneman made a motion to not recommend Lake Lure Tours request for approval. Bill Ashman seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Chairman Mark Helms, Lake Operations Director Dean Givens, Town Manager Chris Braund board member Bill Ashman agreed to talk to the operators of Lake Lure Tours and communicate concerns expressed by the board and citizens.

Adjournment: Gary Hasenfus made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Bill Ashman seconded the motion and the vote of approval was unanimous.

Andrea H. Calvert, Town Clerk