

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 4th day of August, 2008 at 5:40 p.m.

Attendees:

Chris Braund (chairperson)
Bo Williams (vice-chair)
Harvey Harris
Gary Hasenfus
Bob Keith
Robin Proctor
Dean Givens (DLO)
Wiley Bourne
Jeanine Noble (Council Liaison)

Non-Attending Members:

Guests:

Blaine Cox
John Cloud
Russ Pitts

General Meeting Actions:

- Chairperson Chris Braund called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.
- After discussion, Harvey Harris made a motion, seconded by Bob Keith, to approve the minutes of the July 2008 regular meeting as written. The vote of approval was unanimous.
- Chris indicated that he would need to leave the meeting at 6:30 and asked that we modify the Agenda, reserving Special Topics until a later meeting. Bo Williams made a motion, seconded by Harvey Harris, and the vote of approval was unanimous.
- See below for individual reports
- Bo Williams made a move to adjourn the meeting at 7:45p.m., seconded by Gary Hasenfus. The vote of approval was unanimous.

Public Forum:

- Mr. and Mrs. Norton Elder discussed a letter they received from the city regarding a temporary canopy tent they had placed on their boat house. As a decktop accessory structure, the lake structure regulations requires special application, permitting and approval from the Lake Structures Appeals Board. The Elders are asking that the lake structures regulations be amended to exempt temporary canopy structures from the full review and approval process. Blaine Cox brought up the fact that the intent of the Lake Structure Appeals Board review is to examine whether a proposed decktop accessory structure will block the view of any surrounding neighbors. The Board committed to take the request under advisement and clarified that the next step for the Elders was to contact Amos Gilliam or Shannon Baldwin in the Community Development Department.

Individual Meeting Reports and Actions:

Director of Lake Operations – Dean Givens reported:

- Dean reported that lake levels are down approximately 4 feet and that we are experiencing more problems as the lake levels go down. Two boat trailers have been damaged trying to get boats out of the lake, so the town ramp is now closed. A sign has been posted that patrons can use the boat ramp “at their own risk”, but that the town is not liable for any damages. Rumbling Bald has

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closed their ramp completely. It was mentioned that there is a vacationer in the resort that is upset because he has been advised that all ramps are closed and he's got a boat that he can't get out of the water. This Board is trying to get accurate information to this particular individual. John Cloud brought up the fact that the lake is going down approximately 7 inches each week and will continue to go down, and that vacationers/visitors need to be made aware of the likelihood that they may not be able to get their boat back out if they choose to put it in the water anyway.

- Due to the low lake level, the police boat houses are not accessible and the police boats have been moved to the EMS boathouse beside the dam. The Marina Bay is extremely shallow and boats are bottoming out in it. Boat slips by the ABC Store are not accessible.
- Discussion on the buoy situation and the "No Wake" zones on the lake...boats are still going too fast for the shallow conditions and Dean is looking for solution ideas.
- Video cameras have been lowered into the lake to observe the artificial fish habitats—they seem to be working great. Some thought has been given to recording the camera views to allow people to actually see the activity in the fish habitats.
- There was discussion regarding the Mary Soule Kelly infraction. Dean reported that, soon after the Marine Commission denied their lake commercial license, he had ticketed their boat, being used by renters, for exceeding wake speed in the marina bay. When Mrs. Kelly was contacted, she indicated that she would pay the fine, but offered up no excuse for the offense. Discussion was then turned to the possibility of residential boat permits being pulled and/or denied for the following year, if those boats are caught being used for commercial purposes.
- Dean said that the letter sent to Ken Appling of Graystone Manor, pertaining to renters pulling tubers on the back of Ken's boat, was received by Mr. Appling on July 8th. To date, there has been no response from Mr. Appling. Certified Mail Receipt is in the possession of Chris Braund.
- No Police Report, as of today. Michelle was out of office today and she usually has that prepared for Dean.

Town Council / Marine Commission Liaison – Jeanine Noble reported:

- Jeanine reported that the Marine Commission denied all three citation appeals and the Kelly request for a lake commercial license.
- No other report.

Emergency Preparedness & Response – Bob Keith reported:

- Bob raised his concerns about the Olympiad swimming events, the triathlon and the Dragon Boat Race. He asked if there is a way to defer making any decisions on those events until two weeks prior to the Olympiad and then make notifications by email. Chris Braund advised that since this Board is not a decision-making body, this would need to go before the Town Council. Gary mentioned that a special meeting with this Board and the Town Council may need to be set up due to the fact that this Board does not meet again before the Olympiad. Jeanine reminded us that 10-days notice was necessary and that any special called meeting would need to be called on the 11th. Jeanine agreed to get out an email to the Town Council to arrange a special called meeting, with the idea that it can be cancelled if need be.
- No other report

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Dredging & Watershed Stabilization – Harvey Harris reported:

- The Upper Broad River Water Protection Committee will meet on Thursday, August 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall.
- No other report

[from a report submitted prior to the meeting:]

- On July 31, 2008, Clint Calhoun informed me that "a blue-green algae bloom is occurring in the Broad River above its confluence with the lake. This was noticed one week ago. The bloom has been reported to the NC Division of Water Quality. DWQ sent out a technician to take samples to determine the species of cyanobacteria we are dealing with and to determine what, if any health risks may be associated, and make recommendations. We are awaiting the results of those samples. They said that it could take up to a week to get the results back. Probable causes for the bloom are drought related (low oxygen, high temperature, and nutrient loading in the Rocky Broad without sufficient dilution.)"

Commercial & Recreational - Bo Williams reported:

- The beach was closed today, August 4th, 2008, due to high fecal count (attributed to geese). Bo says that the beach water is usually chemically treated after the beach closes as opposed to in the mornings before the beach opens. He said that the treatment solution is purple in color and it takes awhile for the color to dissipate. He's now going to use smaller amount of treatment solution to treat just the "shallows" at least twice a week in the mornings to hopefully remedy the fecal count problem.
- Bo advised that, if the water situation continues as it is today, the Beach, the Marina & the Tour Boats will close in approximately two weeks. The gas dock will probably be the first "decision maker"... (if the water goes down far enough the gas hose won't reach the boats). The Tour boats are presently being loaded beside the boat slips on the "new beach".
- Harvey mentioned that we need to consider the long-term effect/damage being done to the shorelines and asked what, if anything, we are doing to preserve the shorelines under the current low water conditions.

[from a report submitted prior to the meeting:]

- The ongoing drop in the level of the lake is having significant impact on many of the commercial operations. Getting clients on and off boats and dock access are the most common problems. The water park has been closed since the middle of July and without major rainfall will not reopen this year. All beach operations are in jeopardy of closing before Labor Day as the lake recedes turning the beach area into a shallow mud hole. No rain and no change in the rate the lake is dropping will probably close the marina by the end of the month or shortly thereafter.

Fishery & Ecosystem – Gary Hasenfus reported:

- Gary advised that he has had a lot of questions regarding how the low water is affecting the fish spawning and the water plants. Spawning season is over now--so it's not an issue. We have very few water plants, and those usually do well with low water levels in the winter, but low water levels now, along with the extreme heat, will take its toll on the water plants that we do have.

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Lake Structures – Wiley Bourne reported:

- No Report

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

- No Report

[from a report submitted prior to the meeting:]

- The town is having a special meeting today (8/4) to discuss the sewer plant. If it adjourns before our meeting starts I will have an update on the sewer. There is no news on the dam, itself. I have not received the water quality results from Dean, however, as you know the beach was closed due to high fecal coliform data. Water temps are high; the water level, as you know, is lower than it has ever been with out artificially lowering the lake. Rain dancers are desperately needed!

Regulations & Law Enforcement - Chris Braund reported:

- No Report

Other Business

- Russ Pitts brought to the attention of the Board that due to the low lake level, there has been discussion among the Town Council suggesting that this winter (2008/9) be the season that the lake is purposely lowered (to allow for seawall and boat dock repairs) instead of next year (2009/10) as scheduled. Russ asked this Board to think about it and be prepared to give some advice in this area.
- Jeanine brought to the attention of the Board that it had also been mentioned, within the Town Council, that it might be a good idea to set up a “joint meeting” or “workshop” with both the Town Council and the LAB pertaining to Lake Structures Regulations. Russ said that there had been a “Closed Session” meeting earlier today and that some new information has come to light regarding lake structures that should be discussed in such a workshop.
- Russ Pitts presented an extensive report regarding dissolved oxygen (DO) measurements both in the lake and now in the river. Russ and Dean are doing those on a daily basis and want to continue that practice. (The remainder of Russ’ report is recorded and available on CD.)
- Russ also advised the LAB that the Town Council just approved an oxidation chamber which would raise the DO levels from the wastewater plant discharge. .

Recap of Motions Passed:

- No new motions passed

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Open Action Items:

Open Actions	Owner	Update
Make recommendations on where short-term docking should be permissible on town property (e.g., near the gazebo?) and parking time limitations, definition of public docking. (3/08)	Chris	Recommendations prepared and distributed to the LAB members. Will review at the September meeting.
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"> • Awaiting scheduling of this workshop
Prepare draft Standard Operating Procedures manual chapters for each area of responsibility. (3/08)	All LAB members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templates provided (March)
Prepare and submit the draft Lake Advisory Committee bylaws for review and approval by the town council/marine commission. (1/08)	Chris	

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Closed Actions	Owner	Update
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
Obtain signage for the non-motorized boat launch ramp near the ABC store. (1/08)	Bo & Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just need to add “LL boat permit required” language
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
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

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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	
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
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	
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	

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Messer
 Administrative Assistant