

Lake Boon Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 17, 2017

A meeting of the Lake Boon Commission was held at the Stow Town Building, 380 Great Road, Stow, MA on July 17, 2017 at 7:00pm.

Members Attending: Don Hawkes (Chair), Conray Wharff (Commissioner), Kris Krablin (Commissioner),
Absent: none

Meeting Called to Order: 7:03pm. Meeting recorded by Stow TV.

Agenda:

Public Comment

Comment: Carolyn McDonald commented that Town Meeting materials included some Voter Etiquette Rules which might be helpful to follow for LBC meetings

Response – Don indicated that town meetings have their own protocol

Comment: Dick Gelpke commented that there are a number of large trees down in the water, and should consider that for a future agenda.

Response - Noted

Comment: Cindy Curley expressed concern over increasing boater traffic in basin 1, and that restricting water skiing in basin 2 could cause issues in basin 1.

Response – Don conveyed that there is currently no LBC agenda item regarding closing off basin 2 for water skiing.

Comment: Cathy Adams recognized Theresa for her service on the LBC and work with the DEP. She also requested more than 48 hr notice for non-emergency LBC meetings.

Response – Don concurred on recognizing Theresa's service, and explained that state law requires only 48 hr notice but that the next meeting date will generally be discussed at the end of each meeting.

Comment: Joyce O'Claire reported that last year there was a swimmer snorkeling at Indian Point, and that swimmers should use markers.

Response – Don clarified that this incident was reported to Stow Police last year.

Meeting Minutes

- 5/25 & 6/26 Meetings– Deferred to a future meeting. These minutes need to be received from Theresa (prior Secretary).
 - Action: Conray to get minutes from Theresa
- 7/6 Meeting– Conray requested removal of a notation related to the Safety Officer budget. Conray motioned to approve as amended, Don seconded. All in favor.

Police Report

- Detective Sergeant Sallese provided a mid-season report of police activity on the lake, including:
 - Explanation of his role (supervisor) and Lee Heron's (Special Police Officer, Lake Boon Patrol Officer)
 - There is a patrol schedule this year, with coverage every week through Columbus Day.
 - The officer is paid what he works, and schedules may be adjusted due to weather or other circumstances
 - If there are any issues on the lake, always call the Stow Police. If an officer is ordered out to the lake, he will be paid a 4 hr minimum.

- Since 7/1 the officer had logged 30 hrs. A number of stops have been made. A jet skier was ticketed. Safety checks of boats are being made. Verbal & written warnings are being tracked. They also patrol the public beach and dam areas.
- Don asked about the Indian Point buoy. DS Salles explained that a buoy is a courtesy and while the LBC chose not to act on his request last year, he feels this is a blind corner and the police will enforce that. He does not plan to make a second request to the LBC to mark that area with a buoy.
- The Mass. Environmental Police have been out 3 times this summer. 2 officers overlap with this territory, and are especially focused on boats entering at the public launch.
- Advised that Aug 19 there is a large fundraiser event at the town beach, and Lee will be out on patrol during that event.
- He reported that the police boat had a minor light issue but is now working fine, and there are no plans to replace that boat. It was reiterated that the LBC boat is a backup for the police and is in good condition.
- In response to a question about the role of the police with respect to snow mobiles, he explained that they don't have a snow mobile and it's challenging to catch offenders, he has to use discretion and consider the risk/benefit.
- In response to a question about swimmers impeding motor boats, he explained that if the officer determines that it's intentional and repeated, the swimmer can be charged for disrupting a public way.
- He sends out a weekly log of all public safety calls every Monday via email. People can send him a request to be added to that distribution.
- In response to a question about whether the Indian Point buoy was voted down or just deferred, he reiterated that he is not planning to make a second request.
- There was a public comment about the kayak rentals and related issues with unknowledgeable boaters renting. These rentals are the responsibility of the Recreation dept
 - Action: LBC will take this into consideration next year when asked to approve the rental permit, and may request educational materials be part of the rental process.
- Clarified that people should call 911, not the Stow Police number, for issues.

LBC By-Law/Rules Review

- Don indicated that the LBC needs to "do it right". Kris suggested that we defer work on this to the off-season.
- Don made a motion to start the process off-season, involving both towns, and include public meetings in the process. Kris seconded. All in favor.
 - Action: Kris to supply the proposed bylaw review process she developed last year.

Report on recent Pine Bluff Beach closure

- Don confirmed that it was closed on Sat & Sun, and reopened on Mon. That is a Nashoba Regional Health Dept call. LBC does not have jurisdiction. Residents should contact the Board of Health for water quality concerns, and the Fire Dept for issues like oil spills.

Old Business/Follow-up Actions

- Kris gave an update on the public boat launch kiosk signage project. Reviewed some initial draft signage and took input from the commission. It will include a map, needs to have a protective plastic covering, and she will return at the next meeting with a final draft.
- Drawdown Orders of Conditions & DEP Orders – Don had no update. Deferred to a future meeting.
- DEP Contact – Per Conray, the previous contact was Denise Child.

New Business – none

Date of Next Meeting – Will target Wed, 7/26 @ 7pm

Meeting Adjourned: 8:52pm. (Motion to adjourn by Kris, Seconded by Conray. All in favor.)

Approved By LBC: 9/13/17
As Written