

**LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
*Approved Minutes*

February 17, 2024, at 9:00 AM  
Via Zoom and at the Town Hall

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Art Keene, Mary David, Dave Green, Walter Tibbetts, John Gorey, Howard Kinder, and Mark Rivers

Guests: John Kinder, Bob Douglas, Tom Siefert, Frank McGinn, and Tracy McNaughton

1. The minutes from the January 20, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved.
2. Update on the 2024 Notice of Intent and 2025 Dam Inspections

The 2023 Dam inspection report was completed and distributed to the Office of Dam Safety, town officials, and GZA Engineering: our new dam engineering company. The dam is in good condition but is in need of several minor repairs; including:

- Repair PVC liner grout.
- Move seepage monitoring device.
- Patch/ replace miscellaneous concrete.
- Improve horizontal construction joints.
- Remove and replace low-level outlet trash rack.
- Coordination with the Conservation Commission.
- Update Emergency Action Plan.

The cost is estimated to be \$80,000. Mark will send a request to the select board to have those funds included in the FY 2025 budget

#### Details on the Trash Rack Problems

At our January Meeting, Walter noted that, in September of 2023, he dove into the lake to clear the trash rack which was so clogged that it severely restricted the water flow through the sluiceway drainpipe. Clogging material included leaves, sticks, fishing line, and rocks that were lining the dam wall. Walter believes that the rocks were dislodged by people swimming off the dam.

The original trash rack, which never clogged, (Picture 1) was made of wood and had a larger spacing between the slates. The slats also extended above the rack which held the rocks in place.

Picture 2 is a view of the new trash rack that was installed when the dam was rebuilt. It is made of rebar with a closer spacing which gets clogged.



Picture 1

Original trash rack -- Twelve 2"x3" wooden uprights installed at an angle



Picture 2

Replacement Trash Rack – Fifteen Iron Rods (Rebar) Installed Vertically

The Committee voted to ask GZA to provide recommendations to modify/replace the existing trash rack to prevent future clogging.

In the interest of improving safety around the gate house and intake valve, a motion was made that we request the Select Board to take the following measures:

- Strengthen the buoy system that is currently around the intake to restrict access to the area immediately around the gate house and intake valve.

- Add signs that say No swimming, Fishing or Boating around the gate house buoys.

The motion was unanimously approved.

### 3. FRCOG Watershed-Based Plan

No updates were available.

### 4. Update on west-side stormwater design quote.

At our last meeting the committee voted to recommend that, in the absence of a private funding source, this project be postponed until the FRCOG Watershed-Based Plan is completed and work on a design for the entire watershed can be developed. Tracy asked how much funding the Lake Wyola Association had; however, no one had that information. Tracy will contact Bob Blanchette to obtain the treasurer's report.

Dave noted that Leverett is working on a similar problem at Dudleyville Road. A link to an article in the Daily Hampshire Gazette is below.

[https://northamptondaily-ma-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=2e5715282\\_134d16f](https://northamptondaily-ma-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=2e5715282_134d16f)

The meeting ended at 10:01

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2024.