

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE

-Minutes-

May 15, 2021 at 10:00 AM

Via Zoom

Members Present: Tracy McNaughton, Mary David, Terry Smith, and Mark Rivers

1. The Minutes from the March 20, 2021, meeting were approved without edits.
2. The Committee Members unanimously approved the addition of Mary David to the committee. Mary will be representing the Conservation Commission.
3. Status of the letter sent to the Select Board on December 5th regarding a request for the formation of a storm-water runoff committee.

As the Select Board's response to our 12/5/2020 letter didn't address our primary concerns, the following letter clarifying our position was e-mailed to Select Board on May 16, 2021. Hopefully the Select Board will respond before our June meeting. Mark also will send copies of the two letters to the Conservation Commission.

4. Update on Locks Pond Road Culvert repair.

No updates were available. Mark will contact the Town Administrator for an update that can be presented at our June meeting. Mark will contact the Con Com to see if a Notice of Intent has been submitted.

5. Update on Goose Egg Addling Permit for 2021

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife issued our 2021 permit #LP21-06 on March 19, 2021. Volunteers have been looking for active nests.

6. Status of the State Park's safety plans

To enhance public safety on weekends when the park is overcrowded, the LWAC recommended the following actions be taken:

- The town needs to control on-street parking so that there is ample room for pedestrian traffic. Illegally parked cars should be towed.
- The beach should be staffed with enough lifeguards to safely observe swimmers.
- The number of "walk-in" beach goers should be limited once the parking lot is full.

Mark will contact the Shutesbury police to see if a meeting with park management, the police, and local residents can be scheduled. The police will be invited to attend the June 12th Lake Wyola Association meeting to provide information. Also Mark will contact the DCR Rangers to see if they can provide assistants.

The meeting adjourned at 11:24. The next meeting is scheduled for June 19.

The following letter was e-mailed to Select Board on May 16, 2021

Members of Select Board:

This is a follow-up to our letter of December 5, 2020, requesting the establishment of a committee to study problems of road runoff throughout town, and especially, from our point of view, at Lake Wyola. Though we have yet to receive a formal answer, April Stein reported that the subject was discussed at the 12/22/2020 Select Board meeting and it was asserted that the "Town has no legal standing to work on these roads as proposed by the LWAC."

We think this response is not quite to the point. Our request is not for material assistance in maintaining privately owned roads but rather for collaboration between the town and the lake community to find appropriate solutions to the problems caused by road runoff and threatening the health of Lake Wyola. The lake is an important resource, not just for the local residents but for the entire town and, being a designated "Great Pond," indeed the commonwealth. It is true that the immediate problem comes from the roads owned by the Lake Wyola Association, but it is also true that those roads receive runoff from Locks Pond and Wendell roads. Regardless of the source and path of the water, the contaminants that it carries threatens the lake's health. As the problem is located precisely at the intersection of the private and public sectors, it is appropriate for these sectors to work together to solve it. Indeed, if grant funding is to be secured, it is crucial that the town be seen as a partner.

Historically, funding and technical expertise from various sources have been used on both public and private property with the goal of protecting the lake and its watershed. One example was included in the 319 Nonpoint source pollution grant: "Lake Wyola TMDL Implementation Project" (2003). An aspect of this project was to implement small-scale erosion control plantings, bioengineering, and low-impact development infiltration techniques on several individual lakeside properties.

As there appears to be confusion regarding the LWAC request, we would like to discuss it at a meeting of the Select Board. We would also appreciate the discussion item to be included on the meeting agenda so that residents who have concerns about storm water runoff can participate.

Regards,

Lake Wyola Advisory Committee