

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-Approved Minutes-

April 19, 2022 at 9:00 AM
Via Zoom

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Dave Green, John Gorey, Mary David, Eric Stocker, and Mark Rivers

Guests: Bob Douglas, Miriam DeFant, and Mike Stotz

1. The minutes from the February 19, 2022, meeting were approved.
2. Storm Water Runoff and Watershed Erosion Mitigation

Update on MVP Action Grant Application

No new information regarding the status of the grant application. Dave and Eric will check with Becky to see if she has heard anything.

Watershed-Based Plan and Potential 319 Grant funding

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is still working on a 319 grant application to obtain funds to develop a plan for the Lake Wyola watershed to address storm-water runoff issues both over the roads and from Fiske Brook.

The FRCOG team has hired Comprehensive Environmental, Inc., as engineering consultant (www.ceiengineers.com). On April 14, Mark accompanied Nick Cristofori, Principal and Project Manager at CEI around the lake and up to Fiske Pond to observe various locations where storm-water is an issue.

While at Fiske Pond, we observed a significant beaver dam that has increased the lake's level by 18 inches. If that beaver dam was to break, there is the potential for another significant silting event. Catherine noted that there are several beaver dams between the pond and Lake Wyola that could potentially absorb much of the water and silt. Catherine offered to provide a tour of Fisk Brook to get a better view of the beaver activity.

An initial draft of the Water-Based Plan will be circulated to the LWAC membership for review and comments.

3. Miriam was looking for a list of storm-water drains that are entering the lake. It was believed that Bill Elliott created a list but no one has a copy.
4. Water Testing Data

We have over 20 years of water test data from the lake. Mark will contact several companies who can analyze that historical data to determine if it shows evidence of deteriorating water quality.

5. Storm water runoff issue at 66 Lake Drive

Miriam and Bob Douglas reviewed the history of complaints related to storm-water runoff that discharges into the lake through Bob's property. This address is a "low point" on Lake Drive and as a result is a conduit for a large amount of runoff which is doing damage to Bob's property and the lake.

Miriam is proposing a site visit on April 24th at 12:30 with LWAC, ConCom and the LWA.

6. Goose Management

Mark will contact the goose egg addling team and request pictures of any nests that are found.

The town sent a letter (copy attached) to the Department of Agriculture requesting a meeting with town officials and Mark (representing LWAC) to discuss plans (if any) for the future of culling on the lake.

7. Reimbursement for water testing supplies

The committee approved \$300 for the purchase of test set calibration solutions need to continue our annual water testing program.

The meeting ended at 10:05

The next meeting is scheduled for May 28th, 2022.



Shutesbury Select Board
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Donald J. Wilda
District Supervisor
Certified Wildlife Biologist
USDA, APHIS, Wildlife Services-MA, CT, RI
463 West Street Amherst, MA 01002

January 18, 2022

Dear Donald,

As you are aware we had an issue with private citizens requesting services from your agency to euthanize geese, unbeknownst to town officials. We asked our police department to look into it. Who is responsible? Who authorized the euthanizing? For many years the town has gotten a state permit to addle eggs but nothing more.

Acting Chief Burgess discovered the person who contracted with your agency. She did a FOIA request for the contract so we could learn the terms and extent of the contract as well as who authorized the shooting of geese. What we received back was heavily redacted and the names and addresses of involved Lake Wyola residents is not readable. We would like to get that information as the governmental body responsible for the Lake.

We do not believe this group of private individuals should continue to contract with your agency. People have not been forthcoming about their involvement in this. We have been told that this was the fourth year this was carried out. We have heard that the reason it all has come to light is because the silencer ammunition was unavailable this year due to COVID. We spoke with the Lake Wyola Association and their president, Donna West, denied any involvement by LWA in the matter.

The Selectboard's main interest is in having a conversation with your department and clarifying the town's role in this situation. We are asking our Town Administrator, Becky Torres, to set up a meeting with you, a Selectboard member and our Acting Police Chief. We look forward to your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Rita Farrell, Chair

Melissa Makepeace O'Neil

Eric Stocker

