

LAKE WYOLA ADVISORY COMMITTEE
-Minutes-

June 18, 2022 at 9:00 AM
Via Zoom

Members present: Catherine Hilton, Mary David, Eric Stocker, Terry Smith, Art Keene, and Mark Rivers

1. The minutes from the May 28, 2022, meeting were approved.

2. Committee Membership

As Walter will soon be retiring, we need to have the Select Board appoint him in a role other than as Emergency Management Director. Mark will contact the SB and request that Walter be added as a “resident with special technical expertise.”

3. Storm Water Runoff and Watershed Erosion Mitigation

Update on MVP Action Grant Application

No new information regarding the status of the grant application is available.

Suggestion for state earmark fund request

Terry suggested that town officials (Select Board and/or Town Administrator) contact the local State Senator and Representative asking them to earmark in the FY'23 Supplemental Budget before the current session ends July 31st a minimum amount of \$350,000 from the Land and Conservation Fund. He agreed to author talking points and Dave volunteered to convert them into a letter that the Select Board could send to our State Reps.

Watershed-Based Plan and Potential 319 Grant funding

Mark noted that 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. Their current schedule is to have a draft available for our review by July 1.

McAvoy and Ames Pond Dams

The McAvoy Pond Dam is jointly owned by the Town of Wendell and McAvoy Pond LLC. While they have developed an Emergency Action Plan, currently the water level control gate (valve) is inoperative. If the dam was damaged, it is not possible to partially lower the pond's level to relieve the pressure on the dam. We are not sure if there is a plan to repair it.

We also discussed concerns with the Ames Pond Dam however, we are not sure who is responsible for the dam. We will try to get a copy of the latest Dam Inspection Report. Walter and Terry will attempt to locate the last report. Dave suggest that Town Counsel send a letter reminding them of the need for periodic dam inspections.

4. Lake Wyola Association (LWA) Communications

Art provided an update on the report that he present to the Association. The only issue of concern was raised by Howard Kinder regarding the threats from invasive plants along the shoreline of the lake. He noted that the West Side has a lot of Japanese Knotweed growing adjacent to the roads. The Association will be forming a committee to monitor its spread and inform residents.

Dave noted that Leverett has an aggressive program to eradicate. He will try to find a contact in Leverett who could provide information about their program.

4. Dam Maintenance and Repairs

The dam inspection report is expected to be complete in July and a site visit scheduled for August.

5. Culvert Replacement

It is believed that the utility pole is on schedule to be moved in time to begin the culvert replacement in late August or September. The schedule still needs to be reviewed with the Conservation Commission.

The meeting ended at 10:30

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2022.