



Lake Lure Lake Advisory Board
Regular Meeting
October 2, 2023

Call to Order

Chair Kathie Hatfield called to order the October 2, 2023 meeting of the Lake Advisory Board at 3:30 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members present

Chairman Kathie Hatfield
Mr. Richard Sayles

Vice Chairman Jim Lemmons
Mr. Dave Lusk

Mr. Gary Hasenfus

Absent:

Mr. Mark Helms
Ms. Sonya Ledford

Town Council Members & Town Representatives present:

Council Liaison – Commissioner Scott Doster filling in for Commissioner David DiOrio
Parks, Recreation & Trails Coordinator Dana Bradley

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kathie Hatfield asked to add an unfinished business item for 2024 meeting schedule and new business items for 2024 goals and objectives and recommended changes to the Lake Use Regulations for the December Marine Commission meeting.

The agenda for the October 2, 2023 Board meeting was reviewed. **Mr. Gary Hasenfus made a motion to approve the Agenda, as amended. Mr. Jim Lemmons seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the September 11, 2023 Board Meeting were reviewed. **Mr. Dave Lusk made a motion to approve the minutes, as presented. Mr. Lemmons seconded the motion and all members were in favor.**

CHAIR/VICE CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS

Board members discussed highlights from the last meeting. Chair Hatfield thanked Vice Chair Lemmons for filling in last month. There were no further communications from the Chair or Vice Chair.

LAB REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Report from Council Liaison

Commissioner Scott Doster detailed the Marine Commission appeal hearings and it was discussed that the Lake Use Regulations state that a license is needed, but does not specify that a license must be on the operator. Chair Hatfield noted that this is one of the details she would like to discuss in new businesses. Chair Hatfield recommended adding language to the Regulations that mirror the state's requirements for having a driver's license.

Board members discussed that permits will not be required for non-motorized boats starting in 2024 except for non-motorized liveries. There was question as to whether or not this change will result in an increase in non-motorized vessels breaking the regulations, such as boating in the middle of the lake. Commissioner Doster expressed that there is a need for clear signage that details regulations for non-motorized operators. Commissioner Doster also expressed that he thinks that non-motorized boat use is going to increase significantly and that the Town should ensure that there is plenty of information available to operators. Chair Hatfield recommended that the Board notify the Marine Commission about the need for signage and that the Marine Commission should defer to the Parks and Recreation Department for recommendations specific to the signage. It was noted that the Town's sign ordinances must be followed. Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator Dana Bradley noted that the Town will have to work on updating signs to reflect new regulations in 2024. Board members discussed that signs should be concise and clear. Chair Hatfield noted that if the lack of permitting requirements for non-motorized boats becomes an issue, it can be revisited. Commissioner Doster agreed and noted that he likes the idea of not requiring non-motorized permits as long as the rules continue to be followed.

Report from Lake Operations

Coordinator Bradley noted that the Town has been working on lake maintenance.

Mr. Hasenfus noted that there is one buoy that was on the rocks and now it has drifted away from the rocks. Commissioner Doster noted that the buoy issue could be fixed with anchoring during the lake drawdown. Board members and Coordinator Bradley expressed that they would like to discuss the need for buoys soon. Mr. Hasenfus expressed that he thinks that having no buoys could cause legal issues. Mr. Lemmons expressed that buoys make it easier to determine distances from the shore and will help with enforcing non-motorized rules. Board members discussed that buoys can also cause issues.

Coordinator Bradley reported that water samples were good this month.

Fishery & Ecosystem

It was detailed that *The Breeze* published an article regarding the 2023 Fish Study and the Town has published an article on their website, as well. It was also detailed that Communications Director Laura Krejci has set up a community fish forum to be held on October 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Lake Lure

Municipal Center. It was added that the forum will consist of Commissioner DiOrio reviewing Lake Use Regulations changes and Mr. Hasenfus reviewing the 2023 Fish Study.

Emergency Preparedness & Response

There was nothing to report.

Dredging & Watershed Stabilization

Coordinator Bradley noted that dredging operations are currently on hold and that Town is applying for an extension for the NC Dredging Grant. It was also noted that the Town should have no issues with re-applying for the grant. Coordinator Bradley explained that dredging operations are on hold due to contractual issues and that staff is working to resolve issues to be able to resume operations. Commissioner Doster expressed that he expects a long term dredging plan moving forward. Commissioner Doster also expressed that dredging operations cannot be on hold for long and that Town staff is reviewing methods to be able to resume dredging. Commissioner Doster expressed optimism that the Town will resume dredging soon and noted that it is a priority.

Regulations & Law Enforcement

Coordinator Bradley detailed that it has been a busy season and enforcement is ongoing.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2024 Meeting Schedule

Chair Hatfield noted that she has a concern with the April 1, 2024 Board meeting date because it is the day after Easter. Board members reached consensus to change their April 2024 meeting from the 1st to the 8th. Board members recalled that 2024 schedule changes were previously discussed for January, July, and December. Commissioner Doster reminded the Board that if any members have terms expiring, they need to follow the schedule detailed in the *Statutory and Advisory Board Handbook*. Commissioner Doster added that the schedule requires that the Board present a report during the December Marine Commission meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

2024 Goals and Objectives

Chair Hatfield referred to the *Statutory and Advisory Board Handbook* which requires that she present the annual report to the Marine Commission. It was added that the report will include the Board's goals and objectives for 2024. Chair Hatfield noted that one goal is to continue review of the Lake Use Regulations and asked Board members if there are any specific goals or objectives that they would like to address. Chair Hatfield asked that Board members think about this question and discuss it in November meeting. Coordinator Bradley noted that there is a need to assess the impacts of removing non-motorized boat permits. Mr. Lusk added that there is a need to review buoys, as well.

Board members discussed that the Lake Advisory Board used to go on boat tours to get a better understanding of operations on the lake and it was noted that the Board should begin doing this again.

Mr. Sayles asked if the Board makes recommendations for boat slips and if there is a way unused slips can be relocated to allow for more boater access to the Town center area. Board members discussed. Commissioner Doster noted that the Town would like to change the layout of the area in the future, but the slips will remain where they are for the time being and that relocating them depends on what happens with the former ABC Store property. Board members discussed contractor use of that area and law enforcement use of floating boat house.

Board members reiterated that they will give thought to 2024 goals and objectives and discuss them in November.

December Recommendations for Lake Use Regulations

Chair Hatfield noted that there is nothing in the Lake Use Regulations that prohibits multiple permits on boats. Mr. Hasenfus noted that this was discussed before and that it was determined that only the current permit should be placed on the boat. Mr. Hasenfus expressed that he recalls language being added to the Lake Use Regulations that details that only the current permit should be displayed on a boat. Chair Hatfield recommended that this discussion be continued during the November meeting to allow Board members to review the Regulations and see if the language can be found. It was noted that if the language is not found, it should be added. Commissioner Doster suggested that if language is added, it should be in Section 4.01. Coordinator Bradley added that the Town has never written a citation for this issue.

Chair Hatfield noted that she will need to relay the Board's recommendations to the Town Clerk prior to the December Marine Commission meeting so the public hearing for amendments can be advertised appropriately.

Chair Hatfield noted that another issue is that the Regulations do not state that a boater license has to be in the operator's possession, it just specifies that the operator must have one. Chair Hatfield looked up the general statute language for NC driver's licenses and suggested that this language be mirrored for boating licenses. Mr. Lemmons expressed that if the state's language is mirrored, a physical copy of the license would be required and a photo copy would not suffice. Chair Hatfield and Coordinator Bradley noted that as long as they have proof of the license they are carrying it, even if it is a photo copy. Mr. Lemmons asked if IDs will be required because names are on the boating licenses and Coordinator Bradley answered that law enforcement does not check IDs for boating operators. Board members discussed that requiring IDs could cause issues and Coordinator Bradley expressed that the Town may not legally require someone to have an ID to operate a boat. Commissioner Doster asked how age is verified if no licenses are required and Coordinator Bradley expressed that this issue is different. Coordinator Bradley expressed concern with requiring an ID and various Board members agreed.

Mr. Lemmons made a motion to recommend that boat operators must obtain a Lake Lure Boat Operator License, a copy of which must be carried with them while operating a water vessel with any motor on the boat. Mr. Sayles seconded and all voted in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

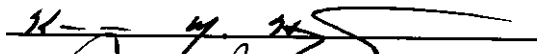
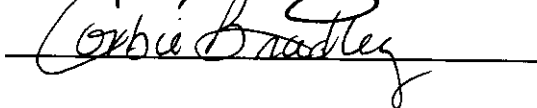
Chair Hatfield asked if there is a reason why Town staff presents recommended amendments to the Lake Use Regulations to the Marine Commission and not a member of the Lake Advisory Board. Commissioner Doster expressed that it could be presented by staff or a Board member, but noted that other boards have staff present recommendations.

Mr. Lusk made a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Lake Advisory Board at 4:51 p.m. Mr. Lemmons seconded the motion and all members were in favor.

Minutes were transcribed by Olivia Stewman, Town Clerk.

The next regular meeting of the Lake Advisory Board will be November 6, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. at the Parks, Recreation & Lake Office.

ATTEST:

 Kathie Hatfield, Chair
 Corbie Bradley, Board Clerk