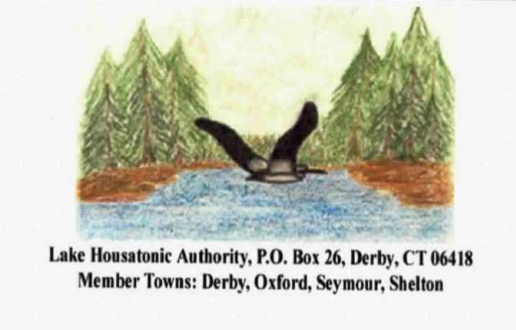


Minutes of the 9/15/2026 Meeting

The September 2026 meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held at Derby City Hall.

Members Present	Members Absent
Ames, Scott (Oxford)	Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)	Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)	
Fitzgerald, Alegra (Shelton)	
Gildea, Jim (Derby)	
Olson, Jim (Oxford)	
Stahl, Mike (Derby)	

Also present was Brian Brainard, LHA Marine Patrol Chief and Mike Simons, LHA Marine Patrol officer.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:37PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

The minutes for the August 2026 meeting were previously presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the August 2026 meeting minutes as presented:
Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, reported that full funding was received from all the member towns/cities. He noted the weed abatement budget for the year came in a little under budget due to the cutback in treatment. Patrol payroll is now fully caught up.

Motion to accept the September 2026 treasurer's report as presented:
Motion: Behuniak Second: Fiedler Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

The Chief, Brian Brainard, reported that the season has gone well and they are winding down now. The boats will stay in the water until the second weekend of October for the regatta and then the season will be over. There was some discussion on the Chief's departure from his current role due to too much going on in his personal life. The board thanked him for his leadership and support over the years and fully understands his need to step down at the end of the season. There was discussion on who should replace him. The Chief gave his recommendation for Mike Simons and introduced him to the board for their consideration. There was some discussion with Mike to ensure he understood the role and responsibilities of the position and to make sure he was a good fit. The board thanked Mike for his time and said they would give serious consideration to considering him for the position. It was suggested that the board consider temporarily creating two Seargent position to elevate two officers to assist the Chief. It would allow time to see if either officer would be a good fit for the Assistant Chief. It was also suggested to over hire for the next season as history has shown that there typically are a few candidates that end up dropping out along the way.

Motion to accept the September 2026 Chief's patrol report as presented:
Motion: Fiedler Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that there have been no significant changes in the testing. The next sample will be taken next week, and the last sample of the season will be the end of next month.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson was not present to report but had sent an email to the board prior to the meeting with an update. Unfortunately, the season didn't end well as far as weeds go. It is currently the worst it's been in several years. The survey is underway and it will provide the much-needed data to help make decisions for next year. It is a difficult balance of addressing nuisance invasive species while maintaining a healthy level of native species for the overall health of the lake.

Vessels and Equipment:

The Chairman mentioned that one of the boats was reported to be over heating and had a loss of power but yet it ran fine the next day. It was suspected that perhaps it was fouled up with weeds. It would remain in service until after the regatta and then will be brought in for a checkup. The chairman asked the board to approve the purchase of a pressure washer for cleaning the boats.

Motion to approve the purchase of a pressure washer:
Motion: Behuniak Second: Blanchard Vote: Unanimous

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

New Patrol Boat

The board continued the discussion on replacing the patrol boats. It was determined that the funding was available for at least one boat, possibly two based on what was received for selling the old boats. There was interest from a couple different parties in purchasing the old boats. Paul Behuniak noted that there was a couple leftover 2024 models in Texas at a reasonable price depending on the cost of transportation. The discussion will continue at next month's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence of any significance has been received since the last meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the September meeting at 7:12 PM.
Motion: Blanchard Second: Behuniak Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary – LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2026.

RECEIVED
By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 9:16 am, Sep 24, 2026