

**Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee**  
**February 14, 2022**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**(ZOOM Video Conference)**

**Call to Order:** A regular meeting of the Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee was called to order on Monday February 14, 2022, at 7:04 p.m. via ZOOM Video Conference by Chair Debby Zeppa. Other members present were Suzanne Choate, Laurie Felix and Rich Pearson.

**Secretary's Report:** On a motion by Mr. Pearson, seconded by Ms. Felix, members voted to approve minutes of the January 10, 2022 meeting, with Mr. Pearson abstaining.

**Special Business/Audience of Citizens:** None.

**Old Business**

**Lake Gate Update:** Chair Zeppa reported that Committee member Scott Gallo had received (and forwarded to members for review) a February 11 email from Bill Watkins/Coventry Public Works Department indicating that the lake level as of that morning was at 91.85, the gate would be opened to lower the level, and another check would occur on or about February 22. Chair Zeppa noted that this appears to be a higher level than is usual at this time of year. In the ensuing discussion members remarked that the lake level appears in fact to be lower than normal at various locations. The Committee will continue to monitor and report on the situation going forward.

**Aquatic Plants Update:** Chair Zeppa noted that the NEAR/SOLitude 2021 Hydrilla Report had recently been issued to the Town. The report will be on the agenda for the February 22 Town Council meeting and should be released publicly shortly thereafter. Informal discussions suggest that the fluoridone application strategy is having the desired hydrilla eradication/control impact, but details on current status and consideration of future intervention options await formal public release of the report, for consideration at the Committee's March meeting.

**New Business**

**Winter Safety/Boating Safety:** Chair Zeppa reported that DEEP's Gwendolyn Flynn had recently been promoted and that responsibility for supervising boat launch activity will now be handled by Yolanda Cooley. She reported on an email from a resident concerned about recent perceived unsafe ATV activity on the lake, but noted that the Committee's role is advisory only without authority to intervene. Members discussed regulations governing ATV/snowmobile use in Connecticut and other states. It was informally agreed to monitor the situation and refer related inquiries/questions to Town officials for follow-up if/as warranted. Members discussed the recent ice fishing activity on the lake.

**2022 Goals:** Potential activities/priorities discussed included: promoting increased public awareness of the lake and critical issues impacting its health and benefits to the town; maximizing opportunities to educate/inform the public during July's lake awareness month; supporting continuation of effective hydrilla treatment of and reporting about conditions as feasible; strengthening/expanding the Library Loves Lake initiative as feasible; producing the updates for three town newsletters; sponsoring an engaging public Lake Forum in September.

**Correspondence/Communication:** No significant items of correspondence were received or submitted since the Committee's last meeting of January 10, 2022.

**Members Forum:** Chair Zeppa noted that the Committee's "Spring Notes" submission for the Town News Winter 2022 newsletter needs to be drafted for April publication, and welcomed input from members. There is a 300-word limit on the piece, which she plans to take the lead in preparing. Ms. Choate noted that the upcoming February 16 meeting of the Inland Wetlands Agency will feature an informal presentation by Dr. Robert Kortmann on lakeside activities, including importation of sand to create beach areas and appropriate waterfront property maintenance, and approaches the town might consider to protect the lake's integrity. A joint meeting of Inland Wetlands Agency and the Planning and Zoning Commission is anticipated in the near future to address these matters.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** March 14, 2022, via ZOOM Video Conference mode.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Pearson, Secretary  
Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

*(These minutes are not official until approved by the Committee at its next meeting)*