

LGA Minutes for the December 5, 2018 Monthly Meeting (APPROVED)
Lake Gaston Baptist Church

The meeting began at 9:30 AM with a welcome from President Mozine Lowe. She then led the assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and requested a moment of silence. In attendance we had Directors' Jeff Dowhan, Al Potter, Tony Moran, Jack Saunders, Wally Sayko, Carol Warfel, John Cataldo, Bill Heflin, Brian Goldsworthy and Executive Director Moira Underwood. There were 30 members/guests and one member of the press in attendance.

Mozine asked for a motion to approve the agenda which was made by Bill Heflin, seconded and passed.

Warren County Sheriff Johnny Williams first spoke with a reminder the prisoner who escaped from the Hoke Correctional Facility is still on the loose and believed to be in hiding in the Lake Gaston area. Several home burglaries are believed to have been perpetuated by him. He urges everyone if you see anything suspicious or return home to find your home burglarized, do not enter the house and call 911. (Note as of January 15, 2019, this individual is still on the loose)

We began our meeting with a tribute to Steve Hoyle who is retiring from NC State. Over the past 15 years, Steve made it personal to tackle head on over 3,400 acres of Hydrilla on Lake Gaston. We now have less than 300 acres. Wally Sayko, Environment Chair and Steve both acknowledged how, thanks to herbicides, grass carp and the efforts of countless volunteers, we have made the abatement of this invasive aquatic plant a success story recognized nationally.

We will miss Steve but are thankful for his dedication to the lake and wish him well in his retirement.

Our guest speakers were Marya Diaz, Regional Director of Operations and Michele Smitherman, Director of Special Projects, KIPP ENC. We learned about the over 2,000 students who attend the 6 KIPP schools in Gaston, Halifax and Durham. KIPP schools are public and operate as a 501 (c) (3). The program focuses on college prep coursework and if you would like to learn more visit KippENC.org.

Our next presenter was Corey Chamberlain with Dominion Energy who spoke about the high water level this fall. Two hurricanes and heavy rains upstream helped to contribute to a lengthy period in flood control. Favorable weather has permitted the waters to recede and we are now at normal levels.

We then heard from Jodie Dowhan, John 3:16 Board Chair, who graciously accepted the LGA toy donations on behalf of generous lake residents.

We concluded the meeting with a comment from Jack Saunders, Safety Chair, that both lanes of the Eaton Ferry Bridge are now open and bridge repairs have concluded for the winter. We should see a return of the orange barrels and lane restriction in the spring.

If you would like more information about any of the LGA committees or would like to come out and help at one of the special events, please email info@LakeGastonAssoc.com or visit www.LakeGastonAssoc.com.

Meeting adjourned 11:04 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Goldsworthy, Secretary