

ORDINANCE LIMITING MOTORBOATS OPERATED ON THE WATERS OF COLUMBIA LAKE TO THOSE OWNED BY CERTAIN RESIDENTS AND VOTING TAXPAYERS

Adopted March 7, 1984 - Tax Record Book 5, Pages 61 and 62

Rev. Nov. 16, 1987, Nov. 15, 1988

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to limit the motorboats operated on the waters of Columbia Lake to those owned by residents, qualified non-residents and qualified temporary residents.

SECTION 1 - DEFINITIONS

"Resident" means a person with a bona fide permanent domicile in the Town.

"Qualified non-resident" means a person not domiciled in the Town, but who is qualified to vote at town meetings.

"Qualified temporary resident" means a person not domiciled in Town, but who resides in the Town for (4) four consecutive weeks or more during a calendar year as a bona fide lessee of premises owned by a resident or qualified non-resident.

SECTION 2 - LIMITATION OF USE OF COLUMBIA LAKE

(a) No person shall operate or permit the operation of any motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake unless such motorboat is owned by a resident or qualified temporary resident of the Town.

(b) The provisions of this section shall not apply to any motorboat owned by the United States or the State of Connecticut and operated by an officer or employee thereof in the performance of his duties.

SECTION 3 - PROHIBITING CERTAIN USE OF COLUMBIA LAKE

(a) No person shall operate any motorized vehicle or construction equipment on the lake bottom below the high water mark except by special permit from the Inland Wetland Commission. The high water mark is defined as the point at which the water of Columbia Lake flows over the spillway at the dam.

(b) No person shall operate any motorized vehicle on the ice of Columbia Lake except by special permit from the Board of Selectmen.

(c) No person shall operate any iceboat propelled by machinery on the ice of Columbia Lake.

(d) No person shall operate any aircraft on or cause any aircraft to take off or land upon the waters of Columbia Lake except in an emergency.

(e) Recreational watercraft on the waters of Columbia Lake shall be restricted to rowboats, sailboats, kayaks, non-motorized paddle boats, canoes, sailboards, and motorboats. The types of watercraft prohibited include: houseboats that are used as a permanent or temporary residence, radio controlled motorboats and any craft containing fixed toilet facilities capable of direct overboard discharge. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

(f) No person shall discharge from any vessel, any sewage, treated or untreated, or any waste derived from sewage. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

(g) The practice of "wake jumping" by any vessel shall be prohibited. For the purpose of this subsection "wake jumping" means the maneuvering of a vessel within 100 ft. of another vessel's stern and in its wake so as to jump or cause the overtaking vessel to become airborne over the other vessel's wake. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

***SECTION 4 - CONNECTICUT DIGEST BOATING LAWS AND LOCAL ORDINANCES**

Every boat owner is encouraged to obtain from the department of Motor Vehicles a copy of the Connecticut Digest of Boating Laws. Every boat owner is encouraged to obtain from the Columbia Town Clerk's Office copies of local boating and water safety ordinances. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

SECTION 5 - PENALTIES

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than \$50.00. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation for each day it occurs. (Eff. 6/1/91)

SECTION 6 - EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision of this ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Section 15-135 of the Connecticut General Statutes. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

SECTION 7 - SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application hereof.

ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR SAFETY REGULATIONS OF MOTORBOATS, WATER SKIING AND OTHER WATER ACTIVITIES ON COLUMBIA LAKE

Adopted March 7, 1984 - Town Record Book 5, Pages 63 and 64

Revised May 13, 1972, Oct 4, 1976, Nov. 15, 1987, Nov. 15, 1988, June 1, 1991

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to regulate the operation of motorboats, water skiing and other water activities on Columbia Lake for the comfort and safety of the public and the protection of property.

SECTION 1 - REGULATION ON MOTORBOATS ON COLUMBIA LAKE

(a) No person shall operate any motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake during the following hours: between April 1 and September 30, from 10 PM to 7 AM; between October 1 and March 31, from 6 PM to 8 AM.

(b) No person shall operate a motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake in a figure-eight course of in unreasonable sharp turns. No person while operating a motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake shall engage in unauthorized pursuit of another vessel or engage in unauthorized racing. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

(c) No person shall operate, on the waters of Columbia Lake, a boat with an outboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 80, or a boat with an inboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 150.

(d) No person shall operate any motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake at a speed greater than "bare steerageway" from sunset to 10 PM between April 1 and September 30. *(Eff. 4/1/93)

SECTION 2 - WATER SKIING REGULATIONS

(a) Every person who operates a motorboat towing a water skier on the waters of Columbia Lake shall, if such water skier falls, immediately return and render assistance to the fallen skier, or cause another motorboat to be in attendance for such purposes.

(b) No person shall erect and no person engaged in water skiing shall use or attempt to use any structure for ski jumping except as stated in Section 4 of this ordinance.

(c) At no time will a motorboat pull more than two (2) skiers at any one time. **

(d) No person shall engage in water skiing, and no person shall operate a motorboat towing a person so engaged, on the waters of Columbia Lake after sunset.

(e) Any person engaging in water skiing shall leave and return to the shore on a course as nearly perpendicular thereto as possible.

(f) Any water skier must terminate his/her forward motion at least 100 ft. from shore or from any swimming area.

(g) No person shall engage in kite-skiing or parasailing on the waters of Columbia Lake.

SECTION 3 - RESTRICTED/LIMITED AREAS

(a) The Board of Selectmen may establish on the waters of Columbia Lake areas restricted to the use of persons engaged in swimming and bathing, to the use of motorboats and sailboats, to the use of vessels other than motorboats and sailboats, and to the use of persons engaged in water skiing. The Board shall cause distinctive marking devices to be placed in such position that they clearly delineate the boundaries of such restricted areas and denote the nature of the permitted activity. No person shall operate any prohibited vessel or engage in any prohibited activity in any such restricted area.

(b) The Board may cause suitable marking devices to be placed on the unrestricted waters of Columbia Lake, not more than 100 ft. from the shore and at intervals sufficiently frequent that at each marker, and adjacent markers are clearly visible. No person shall operate a motorboat between such markers and the shore except when leaving or returning to a dock at the shore and except when the speed of the vessel is reduced to bare steerageway. No person shall engage in water skiing between the markers and the shore except when leaving or returning to the shore on a course as nearly perpendicular thereto as possible. No person shall engage in swimming or bathing beyond such markers except when accompanied by a vessel.

(c) Marking devices, when in place, shall not be removed, defaced or relocated by unauthorized persons. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

(d) Swimmers and persons using flotation devices beyond 100 ft. from the shore must be accompanied by a boat and the boat must be within 25 ft. of the person at all times.

*SECTION 4 - PERMITS FOR WATER CARNIVALS AND REGATTAS

*DEP did not approve 1/9/89

*SECTION 5 - MARINE POLICE OFFICERS

The Board of Selectmen, as provided by law, may appoint such marine police officers as it deems necessary to enforce the provisions of this ordinance and the motorboat regulations of the State of Connecticut. *(Eff. 4/1/89)

*SECTION 6 - PENALTIES

Any person who violates any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not more than \$50. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation for each day it occurs. *(Eff. 6/1/91)

SECTION 7 - EFFECTIVE DATE

The provision of this ordinance shall take effect in accordance with Section 15-136 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

SECTION 8 - SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application hereof.

BOAT LAUNCH HOURS

Motorboats Powered by internal combustion engines 7 AM - 10 PM, powered by electric engines, rowboats and canoes, anytime. (Adopted BOS 5/2/95)

FISHING POLICY

The Board of Selectmen hereby prohibits fishing from the piers/docks at Columbia Lake Town Beach into the designated swim area. At no time will fishermen be allowed to cast off into such area because of the possibility of hooking swimmers and because fishhooks are left in the area posing a danger to swimmers.

Adopted: BOS 12/15/92

Effective Date: 1/1/93

**Per CT DOT letter dated 10/01/04: "Our interpretation...limits the number of water skiers, regardless of the number of tubes or skis. The ordinance does not mention equipment, however an express limitation is placed on the number of water skiers". (Clarification added Apr. 19, 2005)



Town of COLUMBIA

BOAT & WATER SAFETY LAWS