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

Town Record Book 5 Pages 63, 64, 347 & 348

Town Record Book 6 Page 112

Town Record Book 8 Pages 134, 139, 346, 349 & 459

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 OF MOTORBOATS ON COLUMBIA LAKE**

*****a) No person shall operate any motorboat powered by an internal combustion engine on the waters of Columbia Lake during the following hours between April 1 and September 30, from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. and between October 1 and March 31, from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m. (*****New language in italics effective May 1, 1990)

(b) No person shall operate a motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake in a figure-eight course or 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. (effective April l, 1989)

(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 p.m. between April 1 and September 30. (****effective April, 1, 1993)

*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 that purpose.

(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. (*effective April 1, 1988)

SECTION 3 - **RESTRICTED AND 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 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 such 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.(effective, April 1, 1989)

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

**SECTION 4 - PERMITS FOR WATER CARNIVALS AND REGATTAS

**DEP did not approve 1/9189 (See Section 15-.140b of the Connecticut General Statutes)

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. (**effective April 1, 1989)

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. (effective June 1, 1991)

Adopted :	March 7, 1964
Town Meeting:	March 7, 1964
Revisions	
Adopted:	May 13, 1972
Town Meeting:	May 13, 1972
Effective Date:	April 1, 1973
Revisions	
Adopted:	October 4, 1976
Town Meeting:	October 4, 1976
Effective Dates:	October 4, 1976
*Revisions	
Adapted :	November 16, 1987
Town Meeting:	November 16, 1987
Publication Date:	February 11, 1988
Effective Date:	April 1, 1988
Revisions	
Adopted:	November 15, 1988
Town Meeting:	November 15, 1988
Publication Date:	January 26, 1989
Effective Date:	April 1, 1989
***Revisions	
Adopted:	April 8, 1991
Town Meeting:	April 8, 1991
Publication Date:	April 13, 1991
Effective Date:	June 1, 1991

***'Revisions

Adopted:	November 16, 1992
Town Meeting:	November 16, 1992
Effective Date:	April 1, 1993

*****Revisions

Public Hearing:	April 4, 1995
Adopted:	April 4, 1995 Board of Selectmen
Publication Date:	April 8, 1995
Effective Date:	May 1, 1995

NOTE: Boat Launch Hours

Prior to 10:00 a.m. on weekdays,
Prior to noon on Saturdays & Sundays
After 4:00 p.m. all week

FISHING POLICY

Selectmen's Minutes Book 7 Page 1216

The Board of Selectmen hereby prohibit 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 fish hooks are left in the area posing a danger to swimmers.

Adopted:	December 15, 1992
Board of Selectmen:	December 15, 1992
Effective Date:	January 1, 1993