

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Immediately Following the Public Hearing at 6:30 pm
Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT

Topic: Board of Selectmen
Time: Apr 16, 2024 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88104784564>
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This is a hybrid public meeting. The public can attend in-person or electronically. The information provided in this agenda contains the link to access the meeting electronically.

The public may view the video recording of the meeting on YouTube at "[Town of Columbia, CT](#)" Please allow approximately 48 business hours after the meeting for the video to be published.

For public input before the meeting, please email your comments to PublicInput@columbiact.org prior to 24 hours before the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER:

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** *This meeting will be held both in-person and virtual. This session is being both video and audio recorded. Board members and staff who are joining virtually will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. If a member of the public joining virtually creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the First Selectman. If attending virtually, public comments during the meeting can be submitted through the "Chat" feature in or wave your hand and request your mic to be un-muted. PLEASE INCLUDE IN BOTH METHODS YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS.*
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

- 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for April 2, 2024.
- 5. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
- 6. OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 Chapter 190 of the Code of Town Ordinances – Lake and Beach Use:
 - Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake.
 - Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake.
 - Article IV Conduct at Town Beach.
 - 6.2 Town Launch Gate Key Program.
 - 6.3 Charge for Subcommittee for the Columbia Road and Culvert Evaluations.
- 7. NEW BUSINESS:**
 - 7.1 2024 Boat Mooring Lottery.
 - 7.2 Discussion Regarding Municipal Advisor Request for Proposal.
 - 7.3 Authorize and Appropriate ARPA funds for the Beach Paver Walkway Repairs and Closeout for Town Hall HVAC Project.
 - 7.4 Discussion and Approval for the Republican Town Committee to hold two flag sales at the Transfer Station on May 27th and September 2nd.
 - 7.5 Discussion to support flag display to honor those killed on 9/11/
- 8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH:**
- 9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:**
- 10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:**
- 11. CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 12. BUDGET:**
 - 12.1 Transfers:
 - 12.2 Refunds:
- 13. APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:**
- 14. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**
- 15. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**
- 16. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(A).**
 - 16.1 Legal
- 17. ADJOURNMENT:**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
COLUMBIA BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Tuesday, April 2, 2024

7:00 PM

**Adella G. Urban Administrative Offices Conference Room & Virtual
323 Route 87, Columbia, CT**

Members Present: Steven M. Everett, First Selectman; Judy Ortiz, Deputy First Selectman; William O'Brien, Selectman; Lisa Napolitano, Selectman.

Members Absent: Chris Lent, Selectman.

Also Present: Mark B. Walter, Town Administrator, Ann Dunnack, Mary Roickle, Justin Reindeau, Henry Beck, Jim Blair, Matt Sternat, Lions Club President; Club, Phyllis Dunn, Mike Scalice, Mike Gnazzo, Chairman of LMAC.

CALL TO ORDER: S. Everett Called the Meeting to Order at 7:00 pm.

1. **RULES OF CONDUCT FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL MEETING:** S. Everett read the rules of conduct for a hybrid virtual meeting.
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was Recited.
3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the AGENDA as presented with the addition under Appointments and Resignations, 9.4 Appointment of Jacob Plitt as Recreation Director. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
 - 4.1 **BOS Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Minutes for March 19, 2024. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
5. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** Ann Dunnack, 103 Lake Road, attended the meeting of the Hop River Trail Alliance. Provided the map that identifies the signage of Wayfinding Projects. Great prototype for the Airline Trail. At the meeting it was mentioned that the Columbia portion was not well maintained between Lake Rd and Andover and Hop River Road.
6. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - 6.1 **FY 24/25 Budget Discussion on Amendments to the Proposed Budget.** S. Everett said that at the FiPAC meeting they had asked us to reduce the BOS budget by \$75,000.

S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Revised FY 24/25 Proposed Budget with a \$75,000 reduction to the proposed FY 24/25 Town Capital Plan. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

S. Everett provided the details on the \$75,000 cut. This included \$47,857 from the Henniquin Drainage Project. The original work needed is complete (cross drains replaced) and future work will be evaluated. \$15,000 for Latham Hill Bridge evaluation that will be scheduled in the future with Lebanon, and \$12,143 from the tree removal budget by reducing next year's request of \$75,000.

6.2 Columbia Lake Revised Town Ordinances Update & Next Action Steps.

S. Everett said that Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC) have consulted with CT DEEP on the lake ordinances for Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake, Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake, Article IV Conduct At Town Beach Town Ordinance.

Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake

S. Everett asked, under Section 190-7 – Penalties for Offenses, is there an appeal process? S. Everett asked would residents appeal to the Board of Selectmen. H. Beck said they would not go before the BOS, they would appeal in the court, except potentially in situations in where it gives authority for the BOS to make certain decisions.

L. Napolitano asked in Section 190-5A - Limitation of Use of Columbia Lake does anyone lease boats because the language states the operator of the vessel be owned by the resident. M. Gnazzo said there are boat rental services. H. Beck said lease financing is similar to ownership. L. Napolitano asked if people rent kayaks or canoes. H. Beck said that if the BOS were agreeable they could change the language to apply only to “any motorboats” by changing “vessel” to “motorboat”.

L. Napolitano pointed out that Two points noted per 190-I (sticker). Page 4 and top of page 5 (f and g). should be 190-5I.

J. Ortiz asked what would happen if a person cannot pay the penalty fees. H. Beck said that every year a person has to register their boat and have to be in compliance with all laws and if there are any outstanding fees they cannot register their boat.

S. Everett had a question on Section 1905-H “Any vessel exceeding 26 feet in length as listed on its original title, is prohibited to launch on the lake. Vessels exceeding the 26 feet limit prior to November 2, 2023 must possess a valid, posted exemption sticker per Section 190-5”. He said his concern is did we have any vessel on the lake over 26-foot-long last year that had an exemption sticker on it. H. Beck said not last year, this is new going forward. He said this is the grandfathering clause that we talked about in the fall. We talked to CT DEEP, and they wanted us to model it after what they did for Candlewood lake.

J. Ortiz asked how will people know about the ordinances. H. Beck said that the ordinances would be posted on the Recreation Departments bulletin board at the beach and given to each boater as their boats are inspected. He said

LMAC will put together a flyer that will be posted at the Town Hall and on the Town's website.

Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake

S. Everett asked what is the penalty if boats are on the lake after hours. H. Beck said the fine is \$200 and if repeated violations occur the BOS can determine if they choose to, to not allow the boat on the lake for up to a year.

S. Everett asked about 190-4 Restricted and Limited Areas. H. Beck said that this ordinance is what we have currently, the only thing that has changed is the ordinance terms line up with CT DEEP.

J. Ortiz asked if there is a process for Marine Patrol in receiving complaints and how that process works. H. Beck said that Marine Patrol has a telephone number that people can contact them on if they see something that they think should be reported. The number is posted at the beach. M. Roickle said the Columbia lake Association publishes and educates that if they see any issues this would be referred to Marine Patrol.

Article IV Conduct At Town Beach

S. Everett asked about launching a vessel into the lake from any location other than the boat launch. H. Beck said that owners around the lake can launch kayaks and canoes from the shoreline. Potentially some people launch jet skis off their ramps, or small rowboats or Sunfish sailboats from the shoreline, but all of those vessels have to be inspected.

S. Everett asked what keeps someone from launching a boat after hours. H. Beck said there are inspection procedures separate from these ordinances so the BOS could adjust these procedures without having to go through the ordinance process. LMAC will be looking at the issuance of gate keys and there could be amendments to the inspection procedures.

S. Everett said that he had asked about more camera coverage and better cameras at the boat launch.

W. O'Brien said he has some reservations on some of the penalties and the due process of enforcement but foresee legal problems down the road.

S. Everett MOVED to Schedule a Public Hearing concerning the changes in the Town Ordinances for Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake Town Ordinance, Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake, and Article IV Conduct At Town Beach as presented on April 16, 2024 at 6:30 pm. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

- 7.1 Approval to use the Balance of the Brand Account to Apply Towards the New Dugouts & Baseball Field Upgrades.** S. Everett said we need some new dugouts and the Brand family generously donated money several years ago that we would like to use for the new dugouts and baseball field upgrades. S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE using the balance of the Brand Funds towards the replacement of the dugouts, as well as baseball field upgrades at the Rec Park Upper Field. MOTION CARRIED 4.0
- 7.2 Memorandum of Agreement for DEMHS Region 4 Homeland Security Grant Program.** S. Everett MOVED to ADOPT the Amendment of Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection/Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security and the Town of Columbia. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 7.3 Approval for the placement of a Memorial Bench for Peter & Gertrude Naumec located on the lawn facing the lake at the Murphy House.** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE Peg Barrea's Request and donation of a memorial bench for Peter & Gertrude Naumec placed in the agreed upon designated area on the lawn facing the lake at the Murphy House. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 7.4 Columbia Lions Club Seeking Permission to Update Landscaping and Lighting around the Town Green Gazebo and around the Town Green Sign.** Matt Sernet, Columbia Lions Club President explained the proposed Lions Club President's project that would involve improving landscaping around the Town Green Gazebo, additional lighting around the gazebo and Town Green sign, and stonewall work.

S. Everett MOVED to allow the Columbia Lions Club to update the landscaping and lighting around the town green gazebo and around the town green sign. MOTION CARRIED 5.0.

8. COLUMBIA LAKE / DAM / BEACH: None.

9. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS:

- 9.1 Completion of 6-month probation for Kyle Pelletier, DPW Highway Foreman.** S. Everett MOVED to Remove Kyle Pelletier from the 6-month probation and place him as a full-time employee. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 9.2 Resignation of Brandon MacClean from the Hop River Mills Preserve Committee.**
- 9.3 Appointment of Guy Wanegar to the Hop River Preserve Committee.** S. Everett MOVED to APPOINT Guy Wanegar to the Hop River Preserve Committee. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
- 9.4 Appointment of Jacob Plitt, Recreation Director.** S. Everett MOVED to APPOINT Jacob Plitt, Recreation Director. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.

10. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- 10.1** M. Walter explained that there is a sponsored bill that authorized municipalities to levy a tax on short-term rental facilitators (e.g. Airbnb) in an amount not to exceed 2% of sub operator's income from short-term rental properties during a tax year.

- 10.2 M. Walter said that he had received a letter from a resident thanking the Animal Control Officer for taking care of a raccoon that had distemper.
- 10.3 S. Evertt said that the Connecticut Department of Transportation has gotten back to us about our concern with the s-curve by the lake on Route 87 and apologized for taking so long.
11. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
- 11.1 The Willimantic Chronicle
- Hop River Trail Alliance Public Hearing Set.
 - Discovery Zone in violation of ADA.
 - Bridge construction set to begin.
12. **BUDGET:**
- 12.1 **Transfers:** None.
- 12.2 **Refunds:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE Refunds Totaling \$159.28. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
13. **APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS:** S. Everett MOVED to APPROVE the Payment of Bills Totaling \$118,552.33, consisting of 2023/2024 Emergency, 2023/2024 Regular, Credit Card and Paychex. MOTION CARRIED 4.0.
14. **AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:** None.
15. **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:** L. Napolitano said with the proposed tax and business incentive program she would like to see it at a flat rate. She said it should be equitable, not regressive. W. O'Brien said there is a senior who does not live on the lake but has a canoe that he would like to store at the lake. He is 80 years old and would have a hard time taken the canoe in and out of the lake. M. Walter asked to have the senior's contact information sent to him, so we can help him out. J. Ortiz said on April 28th the Democratic Town Committee will be honoring Leah Osborn as Democrat of the year at the Columbia Winery.
16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: Real estate per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(D); Pending Litigation per State Statutes Section 1-200(6)(B); Personnel per State Statues Section 1-200(6)(A).** None.
17. **ADJOURNMENT:** S. Everett MOVED to ADJOURN at 8:11 pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer C. LaVoie

Summary of Proposed Revisions to Columbia Lake Town Ordinances
Public Hearing ~ Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:30 PM
Columbia, CT Town Hall

Introduction

The review and revision process for the three Columbia Lake town ordinances has been nearly a year-long effort involving the Lake Management Advisory Commission (LMAC), the Board of Selectmen (BOS), our Lake Consultant, TRC, and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). The focus of the work has been to limit revisions to those necessary to protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to address environmental concerns. In doing so, every effort has been made to maintain a balance between safely using the lake for recreational purposes while protecting water quality and the lake ecosystem.

Columbia Lake is relatively small and shallow as a 281-acre waterbody with an average depth of 14'. Horsepower, hours of operation, restricted watercraft, certain recreational activities, areas of operation and the like have been historically regulated by the Town and have resulted in what most believe to be a lake where public health and safety of all users are respected, and the general welfare of the Town and all lake users has been enhanced. These considerations are key factors in the revisions being proposed to the Ordinance Sections and include addressing the pressures being put on the lake by recreational activities that are currently permitted, by new recreational activities, and by the need for clarification of existing ordinances.

In addition, as a result of data collected for Columbia Lake as well as from data, studies, and experiences at other lakes, LMAC recognizes that threats to the environmental quality of Columbia Lake are present from expansion of existing permitted uses and by certain possible new uses. Thus, environmental concerns were factored into many of the proposed revisions.

Finally, experience has shown that some existing provisions have caused confusion or have not addressed their initial purpose as well as they should. Hence, some of the proposed revisions are intended to add clarity, understanding and awareness with respect to existing provisions.

A summary of the key revisions follows.

Town Ordinance Key Revisions:

Definition Revisions – Definitions have been revised to be consistent with the 2024 CT Boating Safety Enforcement Manual as well as clarify as needed.

Article II – Proposed Revisions to Vessels on Columbia Lake Town Ordinance

- Section Number Updates Based on Revisions to Ordinance
- Section 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use of Columbia Lake, Sections D to I: Vessels 26 feet or longer will no longer be allowed on the lake. Vessels over this length that were on the lake prior to November 2, 2023 will be grandfathered.
- Section 190-7 Penalties for Offenses: The dollar amount of the penalty has been increased from \$50 to \$200 per offense and provisions made for stronger enforcement of violations.
- Other revisions reflect clarifying language to better understand the content of each section.

Summary of Proposed Revisions to Columbia Lake Town Ordinances

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Article III – Proposed Revisions to Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake:

- Section Number Updates Based on Revisions to Ordinance
- Section 190-13 Regulations of Motorboats on Columbia Lake, Subsections C & D: There is no change to the current horsepower limits allowed on the lake. Current procedures are documented: engine modifications are prohibited; conversion of other power specifications to horsepower is outlined; and motorboats will be allowed only one engine with the exception of a trolling motor.
- Section 190-14 Waterskiing Regulations Subsections C & G: Up to three water-skiers will now be allowed. Vessels involving an airborne or underwater component that is part of a vessel or otherwise used with the vessel will not be allowed.
- Section 190-15 Restricted and Limited Areas:
 - Subsection B of the current ordinance that allowed the BOS to approve marking devices to be placed on Columbia Lake waters is deleted. Similar to Subsection A, which remains, as well as slalom courses, parades and regattas, the BOS will obtain a permit from DEEP if and when needed to place additional markers on the lake.
 - Subsections C and D outlines the Slow-No-Wake CT boating regulations for motorboats within 100 feet and personal watercrafts within 200 feet of shore, docks, etc.
- Section 190-17 Penalties for Offenses: Same as Article II and IV.
- Other revisions reflect clarifying language to better understand the content of each section.

Article IV – Proposed Revisions to Conduct at the Town Beach

- Section Number Updates Based on Revisions to Ordinance
- Section 190-23 Penalties for Offenses: Same as Articles II and III.
- Other revisions reflect clarifying language to better understand the content of each section.

Please recognize that this Summary of Proposed Revisions to the Columbia Lake Town Ordinances is intended to provide only an overview of the revisions. It is not a complete summary. A review of this summary is not a reasonable substitute for a full reading of the revised ordinances.

ARTICLE II VESSELS ON COLUMBIA LAKE TOWN ORDINANCE

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article II Vessels on Columbia Lake

[Adopted 3-7-1964 TM; amended 11-16-1987 TM; 11-15-1988 TM; 4-8-1991 TM]

§ 190-3 Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to limit vessels operated on the waters of Columbia Lake to those owned by residents, qualified nonresidents, and qualified temporary residents. All approved vessel owners and operators shall comply with Connecticut State Boating Regulations as well as applicable Town Ordinances and will use only approved vessels deemed environmentally safe and appropriate for recreational use on Columbia Lake, CT, a 281-acre waterbody with an average water depth of 14'.

§ 190-4 Definitions.

As used in this Article II, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated. Note, the starred definitions are taken from the 2024 State of Connecticut Boating Safety Enforcement Manual to be consistent with the state definitions as taught in State Boat Certification (SBC) and Certificate of Personal Watercraft (CPWO) courses.

LAKE

Columbia Lake is the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

QUALIFIED NONRESIDENT

A Qualified Nonresident is a person not domiciled in the Town, but who is qualified to vote at Town Meetings.

QUALIFIED TEMPORARY RESIDENT

A Qualified Temporary Resident is a person not domiciled in Town, but who resides in the Town for four consecutive weeks or more during a calendar year as a bona fide lessee of premises owned by a resident or qualified nonresident.

RESIDENT

A Resident is a person with a bona fide permanent domicile in the Town.

VESSEL*

Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

MOTORBOAT*

Any vessel, not more than sixty-five feet in length and propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)*

Any inboard powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length that has an internal combustion engine or an electric system powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motor propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

JETTED ARTICULATED VESSEL (JAV)*

Any vessel that consists of a base pumping unit used to generate water or other media under pressure, an articulated hose used to convey media under pressure, or a jointed or flexible conduit used to convey such media and a device through which high-pressure media is ejected for the purpose of propelling, elevating, or submerging an operator or passenger.

SAILBOAT*

Any vessel propelled by sail alone.

SAILBOARD*

Any sailboat whose unsupported mast is connected by a swivel or a flexible universal joint to a hull similar to the hull of a surfboard.

MOTORBOATS FOR COMMERCIAL USE

Any motorboat launched in conjunction with any form of business enterprise where money or other compensation is received, whether actual or implied, for employment of the vessel. The only exception is the launch of commercial motorboat(s) specifically approved by the Town of Columbia Board of Selectmen and any and all other applicable government authorities for purposes of the management of the lake's ecosystem, permitted structures on the lake, public safety, and other appropriate governmental needs.

RECREATIONAL VESSELS

Any vessel used for approved recreational purposes.

OPERATE*

Means to navigate or otherwise use a vessel. A vessel is "under way" when it is not moored, anchored, made fast to the shore or aground.

MARINE PATROL OFFICER:

A Marine Patrol Officer is a person appointed pursuant to Columbia Town Ordinances, Section 190-15.

SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATE (SBC) and CERTIFICATE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION (CPWO):

To legally operate any boat with a motor or a sailboat 19½ feet in length or longer, a Connecticut resident must possess a Safe Boating Certificate (SBC) by taking a DEEP approved boating safety course, per the CT General Statutes, Section 15 – 140 e. All persons must possess a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO) to legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC) on Connecticut waters, regardless of state residency as required by subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the CT General Statutes. These should be carried on board at all times while operating the vessel.

WATER SKIING*

Includes towing of any person behind a vessel under power, whether such person is connected by a towing line to such vessel or not, and similar forms of activity in which a passenger exits a vessel and uses the suction or wake of the underway vessel to engage in the activity.

§ 190-5 Limitation of Use of Columbia Lake.

A.

No person shall launch or operate or permit the operation of any motorboat on the waters of Columbia Lake unless such vessel is owned by a resident, qualified nonresident qualified temporary resident of the Town, owned by the Town or the vessel is approved for use on the Lake by the Board of Selectmen.

B.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to any vessel owned by the United States or the State of Connecticut and operated by an officer, employee, contractor, or other permittee thereof in the performance of his duties.

§ 190-6 Prohibiting Certain Use of Columbia Lake.

A.

No person shall launch or operate any motorized vessel or motor vehicle or construction equipment on the lake bottom below the high-water mark except by special permit from the Board of Selectmen. 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 launch or operate any motorized vessel or motorized vehicle on the ice of Columbia Lake except by special permit from the Board of Selectmen.

C.

No person shall launch or operate any piloted aircraft on or cause any aircraft to take off or land upon the waters of Columbia Lake except in an emergency. The use of drones is prohibited over Columbia Lake by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) who manage the waters unless specifically authorized by the DEEP Commissioner in a Special Use License.

D.

Unless otherwise permitted by Section 190-5, no person shall launch or operate a motorboat for commercial use on or under the waters of Columbia Lake.

E.

Recreational vessels that can be launched on the waters of Columbia Lake shall be restricted to rowboats, sailboats, kayaks, nonmotorized paddle boats, canoes, sailboards, paddle boards, motorboats, pontoon boats, electric boats, electric kayaks, jet boats and jet skis known as personal watercraft (PWC's). Vessels already launched prior to November 2, 2023 must possess a valid, posted exemption sticker per Section 190-6 I.

F.

Recreational vessels which may not be launched include without limitation, houseboats, vessels with an enclosed cabin, radio or remote-controlled vessels, vessels containing temporary or permanent sleeping arrangements, vessels with any toilet facility and jetted articulated vessels (JAV). Vessels already launched prior to November 2, 2023 must possess a valid, posted exemption sticker per Section 190-6 I.

G.

No person shall discharge from or while using any vessel any sewage, treated or untreated, or any waste derived from sewage.

H.

Any vessel exceeding 26 feet in length as listed on its original title, is prohibited to launch on the lake. Vessels exceeding the 26 feet limit prior to November 2, 2023 must possess a valid, posted exemption sticker per Section 190-6 I.

I.

The Town of Columbia Board of Selectmen may permit any vessel that had been regularly and validly launched on Columbia Lake prior to November 2, 2023 and that does not meet the criteria listed in Subsections E, F & H of this Section to continue to be launched on Columbia Lake. In order to continue to be launched on the Lake, any and all such vessels must possess a currently valid and visibly posted exception sticker specifically approved by the Board of Selectmen indicating that the vessel has been found to have been legally 'on the lake' before November 2, 2023 with no subsequent change in ownership.

J.

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 feet of another vessel's stern and in its wake so as to jump or cause the overtaking vessel to become airborne over the vessel's wake.

§ 190-7 Penalties for Offenses.

Any person or vessel that violates any provision of this article shall if applicable terminate the current voyage at the request of a Marine Patrol Officer and may be fined \$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation each time it occurs. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a new occurrence. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are deemed to be evidence of reckless disregard of an applicable provision of this ordinance, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator from operating the vessel or any similar vessel on the lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

§ 190-8 When effective.

The provisions of this article shall take effect in accordance with § 15-136 of the Connecticut General Statutes. (Date Effective After DEEP & Town Board of Selectmen Approvals)

§ 190-9 Severability. If any provision of this article or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application hereof.

Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article III Safety Regulations on Columbia Lake

[Adopted 3-7-1964 TM; amended 5-13-1972 TM; 10-4-1976 TM; 11-16-1987 TM; 11-15-1988 TM; 4-8-1991 TM; 11-16-1992 TM; 4-4-1995 BOS]

§ 190-11 Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to regulate the operation of motorboats, water-skiing and other water activities as defined below for appropriate recreational use that ensures the protection and safety of the public and property, as well as being environmentally safe, on Columbia Lake, a 281-acre waterbody with an average water depth of 14'.

§ 190-12 Definitions

As used in this Article III, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated. Note, the starred definitions are taken from the 2024 State of Connecticut Boating Safety Enforcement Manual to be consistent with the state definitions as taught in State Boat Certification (SBC) and Certificate of Personal Watercraft (CPWO) courses.

LAKE

Columbia Lake is the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

VESSEL*

Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

MOTORBOAT*

Any vessel, not more than sixty-five feet in length and propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)*

Any inboard powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length that has an internal combustion engine or an electric system powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motor propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

OPERATE*

Means to navigate or otherwise use a vessel. A vessel is "under way" when it is not moored, anchored, made fast to the shore or aground.

MARINE PATROL OFFICER:

A Marine Patrol Officer is a person appointed pursuant to Columbia Town Ordinances, Section 190-16.

CONNECTICUT DEEP:

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection is referred to as Connecticut DEEP.

MARKERS*

Markers are either a floating or a fixed object to be used to aid or regulate waterway traffic. There shall be three types of markers:

- (i) Regulatory
- (ii) Navigational Markers
- (iii) Special Purpose as an anchorage or mooring area buoy where vessels may be anchored or moored.

SLOW - NO WAKE*

A vessel shall not produce more than a minimum wake and shall not attain speeds greater than 6 miles per hour over the ground unless a higher minimum speed is necessary to maintain steerageway when traveling with a strong current. In no case shall the wake produced by the vessel be such that it creates a danger of injury to persons or will damage vessels or structures of any kind.

SAFE BOATING CERTIFICATE (SBC) and CERTIFICATE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION (CPWO):

To legally operate any boat with a motor or a sailboat 19½ feet in length or longer, a Connecticut resident must possess a Safe Boating Certificate (SBC) by taking a DEEP approved boating safety course, per the CT General Statutes, Section 15 – 140 e. All persons must possess a Certificate of Personal Watercraft Operation (CPWO) to legally operate a personal watercraft (PWC) on Connecticut waters, regardless of state residency as required by subsection (b) of Section 15-140j of the CT General Statutes. These should be carried on board at all times while operating the vessel.

WATER SKIING*

Includes towing of any person behind a vessel under power, whether such person is connected by a towing line to such vessel or not, and similar forms of activity in which a passenger exits a vessel and uses the suction or wake of the underway vessel to engage in the activity. Examples include waterskiing, tubing, wakeboarding, wake surfing, and knee boarding.

§ 190-13 Regulation of 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 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., and between October 1 and March 31 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. The only exception for the April 1 and September 30 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. time frame is an electric trolling motor on the bow or stern of a watercraft which is a secondary means of propulsion to move the motorboat through the waters quietly minimizing noise. The trolling motor must operate at a Slow - No Wake speed in order to not produce more than a minimum wake and shall not attain speeds greater than 6 miles per hours in still water.

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.

C.

No person shall launch or operate on the waters of Columbia Lake, a motorboat with an outboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 80, or a motorboat with an inboard engine whose horsepower exceeds 150. Engine horsepower or other power specifications prior to conversion to horsepower as provided in Section 190-13D will be measured by the original engine manufacturer's documentation. No modifications may be made to change any motorboat engine's horsepower operated on Columbia Lake. A motorboat launched on Columbia Lake may only have one engine, with the exception of a trolling engine capable of propulsion of no more than at a Slow-No-Wake speed not greater than 6 miles per hours in still water.

D.

No one shall launch a motorboat powered by systems not designating horsepower such as an electric motor system or by pounds of thrust that exceeds the engine horsepower limits in Section 190-13C as measured by the original manufacturers documentation. When a manufacturer does not specify the horsepower of an engine, the units such as, without limitation, watts, kilowatts, or pounds of thrust the horsepower shall be determined by such method that the Board of Selectmen shall designate in writing.

E.

During permitted hours of operation, no person shall operate any motorboat on the lake at a speed greater than 6 MPH between sunset to sunrise.

§ 190-14 Water-skiing Regulations

A.

Every person who operates a motorboat under power with water-skiers on the lake shall, if a water-skier falls, cause the motorboat to immediately return, and render assistance to the fallen skier, or cause another motorboat to be in attendance for that purpose.

B.

On the lake, no person shall erect, and no person engaged in water-skiing shall use or attempt to use any structure for ski jumping.

C.

At no time will a motorboat under power on the lake pull more than three water-skiers.

D.

No person shall engage in water-skiing, and no person shall operate a motorboat under power towing a person so engaged, on the 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 such person's forward motion at least 100 feet from the lake shore or from any swimming area.

G.

No person shall launch on the lake a vessel involving an airborne or underwater component that is part of a vessel or otherwise used with the vessel that allows it to lose contact with the water for more than an incidental moment such as a jetpack, flyboard, self-propelled hydrofoils, efoil boards, ebikes, flyfish tube, or parasailing.

H. No person shall launch a vessel to engage in the activity of kitesurfing.

§ 190-15 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 sailing vessels, to the use of vessels other than motorboats and sailing vessels, and to the use of persons engaged in water-skiing or any other recreational activity. The Board shall cause distinctive marking devices, approved by CT DEEP to be placed in such positions that they clearly delineate the boundaries of such restricted areas and denote the nature of the permitted activity. No person shall operate any prohibited watercraft or engage in any prohibited activity in any such restricted area.

B.

Markers, when in place, shall not be removed, defaced, or relocated by unauthorized persons.

C.

No person shall operate a motorboat at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within one hundred feet of shore, or of a dock, pier, float, or anchored or moored vessel, unless such motorboat is approaching such float, dock, or shore for the purpose of enabling a person engaged in waterskiing to take off or land.

D.

No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of Slow - No - Wake within two hundred feet of shore, or of a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless said personal watercraft is approaching such float, dock, or shore for the purpose of enabling a person engaged in waterskiing to take off or land.

E.

Swimmers and persons using a flotation device beyond 100 feet from the shore must be accompanied by a vessel and the vessel must be within 25 feet of the person at all times.

§ 190-16 Marine Patrol Officers.

The Board of Selectmen, as provided by the Town Charter and Ct General Statutes Section 57-15 – 154(a) or 7-151(b), may appoint such Marine Patrol Officers as it deems necessary to enforce the provisions pertaining to the launch or use of any vessel on the lake or other use of the lake and the boating laws of the State of Connecticut.

§ 190-17 Penalties for Offenses.

Any person or vessel that violates any provision of this article shall if applicable terminate the current voyage at the request of a Marine Patrol Officer and may be fined \$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation each time it occurs. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a new occurrence. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are deemed to be evidence of reckless disregard of an applicable provision of this ordinance, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator from operating the vessel or any similar vessel on the lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

Article IV CONDUCT AT TOWN BEACH

Town of Columbia, CT / Part II: General Legislation / Lake and Beach Use

Article IV Conduct at Town Beach

[Adopted 12-3-1991 TM; amended 4-4-2017 TM; 5-10-2017 TM]

§ 190-18 Glass containers.

The use of glass containers at the Town Beach is hereby prohibited.

§ 190-19 Launching of Vessels; Inspections.

A.

As used in this Article IV, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated. Note, the starred definitions are taken from the 2024 State of Connecticut Boating Safety Enforcement Manual to be consistent with the state definitions as taught in State Boat Certification (SBC) and Certificate of Personal Watercraft (CPWO) courses.

TOWN

The Town of Columbia, CT.

LAKE

Columbia Lake the 281-acre lake located within the Town.

TOWN BEACH

The beach area with a boat launch gate at 2 Lake Road, Columbia, CT

BOAT LAUNCH

The boat launch owned, operated, and maintained by the Town of Columbia at the lake which is located at 2 Lake Road. For purposes of this section, "boat launch," in addition to the designated launch ramp, shall also include the launch of any vessel from any other location at the Town beach located at 2 Lake Road.

INSPECTION PROCEDURES

Such procedures shall be as established by the Board of Selectmen regarding the inspection of vessels for nonnative aquatic species, required CT Boating Regulations vessel safety items and all approved town ordinances relating to vessels. The Inspection Procedures shall be published on the Town's website and otherwise available in printed format free of charge at the Town Hall or from a Town inspector authorized pursuant to Subsection D.

LAKE WATERSHED

That area of the Town included in the Columbia Lake Watershed Protection Overlay Zones LAR, LBR and/or LCR pursuant to Section 21.4 of the Town's Zoning Regulations, as from time to time amended.

NONNATIVE AQUATIC SPECIES

Aquatic flora and fauna having the potential for rapid growth, dispersion, and displacement of native species within water bodies of the State of Connecticut, as identified from time to time by the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection or in the Inspection Procedures. "Nonnative aquatic species" shall also include any aquatic flora or fauna suspected to be such in the absence of a positive identification.

VESSEL*

Every description of watercraft, other than a seaplane on water, used or capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

MOTORBOAT*

Any vessel, not more than sixty-five feet in length and propelled by machinery, whether or not such machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)*

Any inboard powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length that has an internal combustion engine powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of motor propulsion and that is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing, or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

SAILBOAT*

Any vessel propelled by sail alone.

SAILBOARD*

Any sailboat whose unsupported mast is connected by a swivel or a flexible universal joint to a hull similar to the hull of a surfboard.

MARINE PATROL OFFICER:

A Marine Patrol Officer is a person appointed pursuant to Columbia Town Ordinances, Town Ordinance Article III. Section 190-16.

TRAILER:

Any motor vehicle, trailer or other equipment used to transport and launch a vessel, all, or any portion of which is immersed in a water body during the course of such launching.

B.

Use of launch ramp. Vessels which require a powered vehicle to be launched at the Town Beach must be launched and removed only from the designated launch ramp.

C.

Inspection of vessels is required at any location at which such vessel is launched. On and after the effective date of this article, no person shall launch any vessel into the lake unless the following conditions are met:

(1)

Motorboats with trailers launched from the boat launch shall be inspected at the boat launch pursuant to the Inspection Procedures.

(2)

Any person otherwise allowed to launch a vessel into the lake from any location other than the boat launch shall only launch such vessel after making a self-inspection of such vessel and any trailer in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.

(3)

If nonnative aquatic species are discovered on a vessel or trailer during any inspection, the inspector will advise the vessel owner they cannot launch the vessel. The vessel and trailer must be removed from the launch area and utilizing the U.S. Fishery and Wildlife Clean, Drain, Dry 5-day procedures to kill the invasive species before returning for another inspection.

D.

Designation of inspection officials; inspection schedule and fees. The Town's Board of Selectmen shall designate one or more Town employees to administer the inspection program and procedures described in Subsection **C** of this section. All such employees shall be under the supervision of the Town's Marine Patrol and shall receive such reasonably appropriate training as is necessary for the identification of, and potential locations on vessels and/or trailers of, nonnative aquatic species. Fees for such inspections as may be set by the Town's Board of Selectmen shall be specified in the Inspection Procedures.

E.

Penalties for noncompliance. Any person who places a vessel into the lake without complying with all applicable provisions of this article shall be subject to:

(1)

The fine imposed pursuant to § 15-180 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as from time to time amended, as enforced by the Town's resident state trooper, Connecticut State Police, or Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Conservation Officer; and

(2)

Any additional fine or other penalty specific to this section as may be imposed by § **190-22** of this article.

§ 190-20 Additional requirements for launching vessels at the Town Beach.

No person may launch a motorboat at the Town Beach without first determining if the designated launch area is vacant. Vehicles are not allowed to park or stand in the designated launch area for longer than it takes to launch a boat.

§ 190-21 Connecticut Boater's Guide and Local Ordinances.

At Inspection, every vessel owner will be provided a copy of the Connecticut Boater's Guide, issued by the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and copies of the Town of Columbia's vessel and water safety ordinances.

§ 190-22 Alcoholic beverages.

The consumption or possession of alcoholic liquors or beverages by any person at the Town-owned public beach is not permitted at any time.

§ 190-23 Penalties for offenses.

Any person or vessel that violates any provision of this article shall if applicable terminate the current voyage at the request of a Marine Patrol Officer and may be fined \$200. Any such violation which is of a continuing nature shall be deemed a separate violation each time it occurs. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a new occurrence. If any operating violation is deemed to be reckless or if ongoing operating violations continue in such a fashion that continued violations are deemed to be evidence of reckless disregard of an applicable provision of this ordinance, the Board of Selectmen acting in conjunction with the Connecticut State Police, reserves the right to prohibit the violator from operating the vessel or any similar vessel on the lake for a designated period of time not to exceed one year.

Jennifer C. LaVoie

From: mroickle@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:12 AM
To: Mike Gnazzo; Henry M. Beck; James Santos; Robert Powell; Mike Scalise; David Vanderbilt; Robert Millerd; Noreen Farrington; Phyllis Dunn; Greg Stryker
Cc: Mark Walter; Jennifer C. LaVoie; Steven Everett
Subject: Gate Key Program LMAC Motions: 4/3/24

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi All,

Tonight's LMAC Meeting included productive discussions related to the Town Launch Gate Key Program. Please find the two motions related to the Town Launch Gate Key Program that were discussed and approved unanimously at tonight's LMAC Meeting.

Town Launch Gate Key Program ~ LMAC Motions

April 3, 2024 LMAC Meeting

Motion 1:

In the short term, on a temporary basis, LMAC advises the BOS to reinstate the Gate Key Program with the following changes to better enforce the Gate Key Inspection Regulations when a violation occurs:

- Eliminate the three-strike enforcement portion of the regulations, replacing it with the immediate forfeiture of one's gate key for a rolling 12-month period of time as ordered by the BOS.
- For a second offense, immediate forfeiture of the gate key with a potential for not having access to the lake for an indefinite period of time as determined by the BOS, with no less than a rolling 12-month period of time.

Recreational or other town employees as designated by the BOS, will be required to record, monitor, and document camera footage of all launches on a daily basis.

Motion 2:

As the Town enforces the above revised policy changes, LMAC advises the BOS to authorize and install a system, such as a key card or scan license system, similar to Porter School's, that authorizes and records the opening and closing of the gate for one watercraft only in conjunction with an improved camera system that identifies the operator, vehicle, and watercraft.

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Town of Columbia
American Relief Funds

Eligible costs must be incurred between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024
Funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 AND expended by December 31, 2026

Report Period: June 2021 thru April 10, 2024

Account Number	Account Description	Original Budget	Additional Allocation	Adjustment to close project	Current Year Budgeted	Current Year Expenditure	Encumbrances	Balance Remaining
24-7300-001	ARPA Rec Park Facility Bldg	225,000.00		(850.47)	224,149.53	224,149.53		-
24-7300-002	ARPA DPW Portable Radios	37,000.00	1,800.00	(92.76)	38,707.24	38,707.24		-
24-7300-003	ARPA CVFD Exhaust System Upgrade	12,000.00			12,000.00	12,000.00		-
24-7300-004	ARPA CVFD Audio/Visual System	27,627.00			27,627.00	27,627.00		-
24-7300-005	ARPA CVFD Mobilie Radios	80,000.00	162.00	(0.10)	80,161.90	80,161.90		(0.00)
24-7300-006	ARPA CVFD HVAC	18,832.00			18,832.00	18,832.00		-
24-7300-007	CVFD VOIP System	11,055.00			11,055.00	11,055.00		-
24-7300-008	Moor's Indian Sch-Paint&Repair	16,900.00		(2,050.00)	14,850.00	14,850.00		-
24-7300-009	Town Hall HVAC System	46,000.00		(1,505.00)	44,495.00	44,495.00		-
24-7300-010	Senior Center Generator	25,000.00	13,000.00		38,000.00	22,220.00	13,653.00	2,127.00
24-7300-011	Murphy House Bathrm Upgrades	20,000.00			20,000.00	3,144.32	3,300.00	13,555.68
24-7300-012	DPW 1999 Dump Trk Replacement	245,000.00			245,000.00		228,178.80	16,821.20
24-7300-013	DPW Site Survey & Site Plan	20,000.00		(14,640.10)	5,359.90	5,359.90		-
24-7300-014	History Place Masonry/Repair	7,200.00	(400.00)		6,800.00	6,800.00		-
24-7300-015	CVFD Roof Replacement/Repair	60,000.00		(5,975.66)	54,024.34	54,024.34		-
24-7300-016	Senior Center Sidewalks	6,500.00	989.00		7,489.00		7,489.00	-
24-7300-017	Rec Park Courts New/Upgrades	146,000.00		(2,359.66)	143,640.34	143,640.34		-
24-7300-018	DPW Office Building	298,824.00	11,536.83		310,360.83	310,360.83		0.00
24-7300-019	DPW Mini-Excavator	90,000.00		(4,040.00)	85,960.00	85,960.00		-
24-7300-020	CVFD Command Vehicle	100,000.00	(20,000.00)	(4,587.62)	75,412.38	75,412.38		-
24-7300-021	CVFD Self Contained Breathing Apparatus	87,740.00		(19.04)	87,720.96	87,720.96		-
24-7300-022	TextMyGov Subscription Year 1	6,750.00			6,750.00	6,750.00		-
24-7300-023	Yeomans Hall HVAC System	16,500.00			16,500.00	17,081.59		(581.59)
24-7300-024	Beach Paver Walkway Repair	6,150.00			6,150.00	6,150.00		-

American Relief Funds (24) Totals 1,610,078.00 7,087.83 (36,120.41) 1,581,045.42 1,296,502.33 252,620.80 31,922.29

American Relief Funds

1st Tranche - received June 2021 795,959.09
 2nd Tranche - Received September 2022 273,555.25
 2nd Tranche - Received October 2022 522,403.84

1,591,918.18

Less:

Total Expenditures Paid 1,296,502.33
 Total Open Encumbrances/Purchase Orders 252,620.80
 Total Project Balances on Open Projects 31,922.29
 Net Allocated to Projects 1,581,045.42

Total ARPA Funds available excluding interest earned & any funds left over from projects 10,872.76

Total ARPA Tranches 1,591,918.18
 Total Projected Costs 1,581,045.42
 Available ARPA Funds 10,872.76
 Interest Earned up to June 2023 44,124.57 December to March interest needs to be posted
 Net available ARPA Funds + Interest 54,997.33

TOWN OF COLUMBIA
Finance Department

FY 2023-2024 Summary of Transfers

DATE: 4/12/24
 TO: Financial Planning and Allocation Commission (FIPAC)
 FROM: Town of Columbia Finance Department

Transfer #	From Account #	Account Name	Total	To Account #	Account Name	Total	In Budget	FIPAC	Contingency	General Fund	Town Mtg
TRANSFERS FOR FIPAC APPROVAL:											
2023-2024											
2024-016	10-4112-130	Legal Notices	246.00	10-4112-140	Advertising	246.00	X				
2024-017	10-4250-600	Repairs/Maintenance	240.00	10-4250-130	Legal Notices	240.00	X				
2024-018	10-4350-010	Lake Management Salaries	133.00	10-4350-520	Printing	133.00	X				
			619.00			619.00					