

**AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING ACTIVITIES AND CONDUCT
AT THE COLUMBIA TOWN BEACH AND THE LAUNCHING OF
WATERCRAFT FROM THE SHORELINE OF COLUMBIA LAKE
AND PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF SUCH**

Section 1: The use of glass containers at the Town Beach is hereby prohibited.

Section 2: For the purpose of this Section 2 (2.0-2.4), the following terms shall have the meanings set forth in this Section 2.0:

- "Boat Launch" shall mean the boat launch owned, operated and maintained by the Town of Columbia at Lake which is located at the end of Beach Road. For purposes of this Section 2, Boat Launch, in addition to the designated launch ramp, shall also include the launch of any Watercraft from any other location at the Town Beach located on Beach Road.
- "Lake" shall mean Columbia Lake within the Town.
- "Lake Watershed" shall mean 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.
- "Inspection Procedures" shall mean such procedures as shall be established by the Board of Selectmen regarding the inspection of Watercraft for Non-Native Aquatic Species and the general implementation and enforcement of this Section 2, as the same may be amended from time to time in the manner as shall be provided in the Inspection Procedures. 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 Section 2.3.
- "Non-Native Aquatic Species" shall mean aquatic flora and fauna having the potential for rapid growth, dispersion and displacement of native species within waterbodies of the State of Connecticut, as identified from time to time: (i) by the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection; or (ii) in the Inspection Procedures. Non-Native Aquatic Species shall also include any aquatic flora or fauna suspected to be such in the absence of a positive identification.
- "Time Periods" shall mean such time periods as the Selectmen shall establish as part of the Inspection Procedures during which an authorized Town employee will be available at the Boat Launch to conduct inspections in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.
- "Town" shall mean the Town of Columbia.

- "Watercraft" shall mean any boat, kayak, canoe, paddleboard, personal watercraft or other contrivance with or without an independent means of propulsion and capable of carrying one or more persons on and over the surface of a waterbody. "Watercraft" shall also include any motor vehicle, a trailer or other equipment used to transport and launch a Watercraft; all or any portion of which is immersed in a waterbody during the course of such launching.

Section 2.1: Use of Launch Ramp: Watercraft which require a powered vehicle to be launched at the Town Beach must be launched and removed only from the designated launch ramp.

Section 2.2: Inspection of Watercraft Required: On and after the effective date of this ordinance, no person shall launch any Watercraft into the Lake unless the following conditions are met:

- (a) Watercraft launched from the Boat Launch during one of the Time Periods shall be inspected at the Boat Launch for the presence of Non-Native Aquatic Species pursuant to the Inspection Procedures. A person otherwise entitled to use the Boat Launch to launch a Watercraft shall have access to the Boat Launch for such purpose at all other times not within one of the Time Periods by complying with Inspection Procedures pertaining to access to the Lake after self inspection.
- (b) Any person otherwise entitled to launch a Watercraft into the Lake from any location other than the Boat Launch shall only launch such Watercraft after making a self-inspection of such Watercraft in accordance with the Inspection Procedures.
- (c) If Non-Native Aquatic Species are discovered on a Watercraft during any inspection, all signs of such Non-Native Aquatic Species shall be removed from such Watercraft by the inspector and applicable provisions of the Inspection Procedures shall be satisfied.

Section 2.3: 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 Section 2.2 of this ordinance. 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 Watercraft of, Non-Native Aquatic Species. Fees for such inspections as may be set by the Town's Board of Selectmen shall be specified in the Inspection Procedures.

Section 2.4: Penalties for Noncompliance: Any person who places a Watercraft into the Lake without complying with all applicable provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to: (i) the fine imposed pursuant to Section 15-180 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as from time to time amended, as enforced by the Town's resident state trooper, CT State Police, or DEEP Conservation Officer; and (ii) any additional fine or other penalty specific to this Section 2 as may be imposed by Section 5 of this ordinance.

Section 3: No person may launch a boat without first determining if the launch area is vacant. All vehicles must stop at the designated area. All operators must walk to the launch area to determine availability of the area. No boats may be launched without an Individual "walking" the trailer to and from the launch area. Vehicles are not allowed to park or stand in the launch area for longer than it takes to launch a boat.

Section 4: Prohibited Act: The consumption or possession of alcoholic liquors or beverages by any person at the Town owned public beach is not permitted at any time.

Section 5: Any person, firm or organization may be fined an amount not more than fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each offense under this ordinance.

Public Hearings:	October 19, 1991
	December 3, 1991
Town Meeting:	December 3, 1991
Publication Date:	December 10, 1991
Effective Date:	January 1, 1991

****Amendment****

Public Hearing:	April 4, 2017
Adopted:	April 4, 2017
Publication Date:	April 7, 2017
Effective Date:	April 28, 2017

Adopted Town Meeting:	May 10, 2017
Publication Date:	May 13, 2017
Effective Date:	June 3, 2017