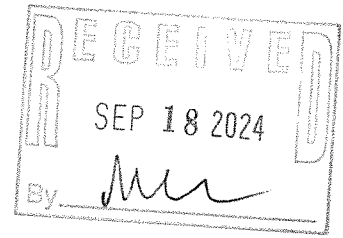


Morris Ordinance Committee

Meeting Minutes

August 5, 2024



The meeting of the Morris Ordinance Committee was called to order at 4:40 PM by Chairman Eddie Jacob. In attendance were Eddie Jacob, Robin Viola, Mike Doyle, Ben Paletsky and Mark Skilton.

Eddie Jacob made a motion to accept the July 15 meeting minutes, Ben Paletsky seconded, so voted unanimous, Passed.

New Business: No new Business at this time

Old Business Continued:

Proposed changes to the current Docks, Ramps and Boat Lifts ordinance as well as Water Skiing, Wake Boarding and Wake Surfing by the Board of Selectman.

Ben Paletsky Presented a draft of an Advisory Regulation for Wake Boat Operations on Bantam Lake.

Mark Skilton felt that this was adequate and should be voted on.

Ben Paletsky was in agreement of the advisory draft being voted on.

Robin Viola stated that the draft was not an ordinance, and we should be working with the copy sent from the Selectman's office for review. An advisory suggestion isn't an ordinance. An ordinance applies to an order governing some detail of procedure or conduct enforced by a limited authority such as a municipality.

At the last meeting it was observed that the problem was watercraft operated in a manner that creates wakes that damage the shore (property) and the lake bed, and/or impacts other recreationalists on the water. This idea was lost somewhere since. The preamble sounds good but an advisory seems too vague to be effective.

Ben and Mark were not interested in having the town of Morris enforce any rules governing the wakes on the South Bay of the lake. Ben questions if the town of Morris has the capacity, capability, or budget to regularly enforce any rules governing the wakes on the South Bay of the lake.

Robin Viola reminded the group of the DEEP rules regarding the shoreline rules for wakes. This included data showing that the state law is: **No person shall operate**

a motorboat, excluding a personal watercraft, at a speed in excess of Slow-No-Wake within 100 feet of shore, or a dock, pier, float or anchored or moored vessel, unless taking off or landing a waterskier. The town of Morris should be on board with this as well.

Ben and Mark felt that the DEEP should be enforcing it and not have to utilize the Town of Morris for enforcement.

Robin Viola noted that the EnCon boat has been active, however it isn't every weekend when the problems are occurring. We need a town ordinance in order to put signs at the boat launches with the stated ordinance. A Main concern was the health of the lake, the shoreline erosion and the general safety of the lake residents. It needs to be an ordinance, which is a law, not a suggestion. The signs can be effective as proven by the Bantam Lake Yacht Club's permitted signs of a "No Wake Zone in the South Bay" during the annual Sunfish Regatta.

Public Comment: Mike Doyle stated that an advisory is not an ordinance and although well written, a suggested advisory isn't enough. He reminded the committee that this has already been voted on and passed by Inland Wetlands, as well as BLPA.

Eddie Jacob made a motion to review and re-word the suggested advisory, (not the provided ordinance changes) to present at the next meeting of September 9, 2024 to be voted on. Then present the advisory to the Selectmen's office for review. Ben seconded the motion.

A motion was made by Eddie Jacob to vote on the portion of the suggested ordinance proposing placing numbers on the docks in order to enable rescue personnel to quickly locate an emergency in the water. The motion was seconded by Ben Paletsky and the Ordinance committee voted unanimous **PASSED**.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM

Respectfully Submitted

Robin Viola

Secretary