

Lake Boon Commission
Meeting Minutes
Dec 21, 2022

A meeting of the Lake Boon Commission was held on Dec 21, 2022 at 7:00 pm. The meeting took place by telecommunications using Zoom, because of coronavirus-related state limits on public meetings per the Mar 21, 2020 order of Governor Baker, extended thru July 2023. The meeting was recorded and is available thru Stow TV.

Members attending: Conray Wharff (Chairperson), Dan Barstow (Clerk), Dan Tereau

Meeting Called to Order: 7:00 pm

Public Comments

- Dave Gray announced availability of the Lake Boon Calendar.
- Laura Diamond asked about the approval process for the proposed bylaw changes. Dan T explained the sequence and timing including an initial public hearing as the next step.
- Robert Contin praised work on the winter rules. He asked about sunrise and sunset vs specific hours.
- Cindy Curley asked about quiet hours on Sunday and/or Saturday during winter

Minutes

- We deferred reviewing minutes until our next meeting

Winter Rules Discussion

- Dan Tereau raised the discussion of developing and implementing potential new rules governing winter activities on the lake.
- This discussion came about in response to feedback from the community to:
 1. Make the lake safer all for winter activities
 2. Clarify confusion related to quiet time during the winter
 3. Establish year-round bylaws that are clear and understandable
- The Lake Boon Commission undertook an evaluation that considered:
 1. Existing state and federal laws
 2. Existing precedent rules on Massachusetts and surrounding lakes
 3. Unsolicited feedback provided by residents
- As a result of the foregoing, the LBC is discussed the following potential bylaws:

Lake Boon Proposed Winter Rules

Winter rules are intended to apply while there is snow and/or ice on the lake and do not apply to the use of boats or other waterborne craft operating in open water.

1. All motorized OHV vehicles are prohibited between November 1st and March 31st (or as long as ice remains on the lake), during the hours of 1PM -5PM on Sundays and on the Massachusetts State holidays of Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. These dates and times are designated as winter quiet time on the lake.
2. All persons using the frozen lake do so at their own risk – and should not venture onto the ice until it is completely safe. Powered vehicles must be driven on ice very carefully and responsibly.
3. All state and federal rules and regulations apply regarding minimum operator ages, operator certifications, licenses, accident reporting, etc. apply to the operation of motorized OHV (Off-Highway Vehicles) including snowmobiles, ATVs, motorcycles, etc.
4. All motorized vehicles on the ice must be equipped with working front lights, a rear red light and rear red reflector, which must be used at all times after sunset.
5. No wood, partially burned wood, or debris can be left on ice.
6. Speeding, racing, or spinning is strictly prohibited.

7. Speed limits on the ice for powered vehicles are:

- 10 MPH for cars, trucks, and motorcycles;
- 35 MPH for snowmobiles and ATV's;
- 5 MPH for all vehicles traveling within 50 feet of an occupied residence, foot traveler, ice skater, fisher, skier, or any other pedestrian and OHVs must yield the right of way.

• After discussion on each of the points above it was decided that the existing laws of Massachusetts covers the majority of concerns raised by the residents. In that regard for rules, 2-4, no approval is required but rather a publication alerting the community at large as to the specific bylaw.

• With respect to rule 1, it was decided that this rule aligns to community expectations and makes quiet time on the lake consistent for twelve months. A town hall meeting will be required for this rule and the Stow police will be contacted to discuss enforcement.

• With respect to rule 5, this is a safety rule that will be instituted pending town meeting review. Regarding rules 6 and 7. These rules also require a town meeting and while there is alignment on the intention of the rule, the LBC noted that enforcement of this rule may limit its effectiveness. However there was agreement that posting the rules pending a town meeting would discourage excessive speed on the lake.

• The action items were: Conray to follow up with the local police and town related to the proposed changes. Dan T. was to finalize the draft of the proposed changes.

• It was decided that due to the limited ice on the lake there was no urgency to re-write the bylaws with the month of January but rather the LBC would take these changes to a town meeting in the spring once additional feedback could be obtained.

Budget

- Dan B summarized the status of our budget. Dan B proposed and Dan T seconded and we unanimously approved the budget for next year (July 1 2023 – June 30 2024)
- Dominic Meringolo of Solitude summarized their projected costs for a new three year contract, if they were awarded after a pending RFP.

Buoys

- Dan T showed the buoy options for the entrance the 4th basin, to give warning about the shallow depth and sub-water stumps. Dan B. proposed, Dan T seconded and we unanimously approved purchasing a buoy for that location.
- We discussed the importance of the kiosk and the need to improve the design and clarity of information about the regs, lake map and other aspects of the kiosk. Dan B offered to design a new display to fit in the kiosk. Dan T explained that, from a legal perspective, it is best to be less specific and to clarify that people proceed at their own risk.

Old business

- We discussed reimbursement to LBA for lake monitoring. Dave Gray explained that he needed to review and present updated requests for reimbursement. He will do so at the next meeting.

New Business

- Continue discussion of Winter safety
- Continue discussion of additional buoys

Date of Next Meeting

- Tentative – Jan 10, 2023

Meeting Adjourned:

- Dan B moved, Dan T seconded and we unanimously approved adjourning.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm

Approved by LBC on _____: