



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752

Fort Meadow Commission



TOWN OF HUDSON
Hudson, Massachusetts 01749

May 15, 2025 Fort Meadow Commission Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm at the at the Marlboro City Hall.

In Attendance

- Commissioners Gary Pelletier (chair), Paul Gould, along with agents JP Onate, Jason Shafferman and Peter Sharon. Special guest, Captain Erik Tynan from the Mass Environmental Police, was present.

Minutes

- The meeting minutes from September 26, 2024, were approved as written.

Boat Launch and Beach Opening

- The boat launch was opened on 5/3/2025 for the early fisherman's program. There are concerns with people not washing their boats. The washing of boats is required to prevent new species of weeds entering the lake. On 5/24/2025 it will open for weekends only and, as of 6/22/2025 it will Thursday through Sunday for the summer. Both beaches will open on 6/9/2025.

Review of Fort Meadow Rules

- Captain Erik Tynan participated in a review of our new rules adopted last year. He commented favorably and had no issues. Eric will have our rules reviewed by his management.
- He reminded us that the Massachusetts Environmental Police have implemented a mandatory boater education program for all motorized vessel operators starting April 1, 2026, to enhance safety across Massachusetts' waterways. Proof of education will be required while boating on Massachusetts waters.
- He said to enroll in a boating safety education course, one can choose between an online course or a traditional classroom-based education course. Upon successful completion of the course, students will receive a safety certificate. Registration is available at <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/boat-safety-certificate-course>.
- Eric requested and was given a copy of our meeting schedule.

FMC Budgets

- The Marlboro finance committee reviewed our budget. Priscilla Ryder, Trey Fuccillo represented the FMC.
- Funding from the Town of Hudson is expected to be similar to last year.
- We agreed to make a list of needed buoys and related materials. Paul will lead that effort.

Buoys and Ramp Dock

- Paul Gould reported that the buoys will be put out shortly. The end section of the ramp dock has already been put in place.

Weed Contract

- A survey was conducted on 5/15/2025. The results will be reviewed by The Conservation Committee and the FMC and treatment dates defined.

Slalom Course

- The installation of a slalom course for 2025 was approved.



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2024 Meeting Schedule

- May 15, 2025, Marlborough City Hall
- June 12, 2025, Hudson Town Hall
- July 10, 2025, Marlborough City Hall
- Aug 14, 2025, Hudson Town Hall
- Sept 11, 2025, Marlborough City Hall
- Oct 9, 2025, Hudson Town Hall

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm

Thanks to Peter Sharon for taking notes during the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted by

Carl Blatchley, Clerk



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Fort Meadow Commission (FMC) Rules September 2024

1. **MASS BOATING LAWS** – Operators must comply with all state and local laws.
2. **ENFORCEMENT** – Law Enforcement and members of the Commission will patrol the lake. When hailed, boat drivers must stop. Suspension of boating privileges for violations may result.
3. **DIRECTION** – Drive counterclockwise, do not stop traffic in the narrows.
4. **SPEED** – Drive at speeds that match the conditions; max speed is 45 MPH. Sunset to sunrise max speed is 5 MPH and navigation lights must be on.
5. **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)** – Operators must be at least 18 years old (16 years old with completion of an approved boater/safety course). All operators and passengers must wear an approved life jacket.
6. **DISTANCE** – Stay 200 feet from the Marlboro and Hudson beaches. Motorboats must stay 150 feet from shorelines or to the LEFT of all buoys EXCEPT for the island markers off Red Spring Rd.
7. **TOWED WATER SPORTS** – People being towed must wear approved flotation devices. No towing after sunset. A spotter 12 years or older is required. People being towed must stay behind the boat in the narrows.
8. **ENVIRONMENTAL** – Surfing is only permitted in the middle of the two large basins when safe to do so. Take extra precautions when refueling. New docks need approval from the Conservation Commission/FMC. All boats must be washed down before launched. *
9. **PADDLE BOATS/CANOES, ETC.** – Must have an approved flotation device aboard. Children under 12 years old must wear one.
10. **BOAT OWNERS** – Are responsible for operator actions.
11. **SEATING** – While in motion, do not sit on the edge of a boat without a guardrail.
12. **BOAT LAUNCH** – Is for launching and removing boats for Marlboro and Hudson residents. *
13. **BOATS** – Maximum boat length is 25 feet.
14. **SWIMMING** – Is permitted only out to 50 feet or next to your boat.
15. **DEMEANOR** – No operating under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Be respectful of others, no profane, threatening, or abusive language.
16. **DOCKS/MOORING** – Are monitored by the FMC. A maximum of one dock per property or exclusive use area, existing docks are grandfathered in. Three Red Spring Road property is limited to 10 boat slips. No docks or mooring are allowed at public or community association beaches. Nothing shall be moored more than 50' from the shore. Motorboats must be secured at a dock.

* Joint enforcement with the City of Marlborough Conservation Committee

September 2024