



CITY OF MARLBOROUGH
Marlborough, Massachusetts 01752



TOWN OF HUDSON
Hudson, Massachusetts 01749

Fort Meadow Commission

June 12, 2025

Fort Meadow Commission Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm at the Hudson Town Hall.

In Attendance

- Commissioners Gary Pelletier (chair), Paul Gould, Carl Blatchley (clerk) along with agents JP Onate, Jason Shafferman and Peter Sharon. No guests were present.

Minutes

- The meeting minutes from September 15, 2025, were approved as written.

Buoys

- Paul and Gary placed the buoys around the lake again this year.

FMC Budgets

- We need to purchase some buoy related equipment. Paul will purchase these using the existing budget funds.

Weed Contract

- A survey was conducted on 5/15/2025. The results were reviewed by the Conservation Committee and the FMC, and the treatment date is 6/23/2025. Discussion ensued about the difficulty of boating in areas where there are noninvasive weeds.

Joint Conservation/FMC Meeting Discussion

- Gary reported that the meeting is scheduled for 7/2/2025. A discussion ensued on related topics.

Commission Information/Webpage Changes

- Gary and Carl reported that going forward the FMC will coordinate consistency between the Town of Hudson webpage and the City of Marlboro webpage on FMC related topics.

Fort Meadow Lake Rules

- The FMC rules revision June 2025 was approved. Changes from the September 2024 rules was a statement reflecting the new Massachusetts boating licensing rules, and the addition of the winter rules which are unchanged from the 1989 rules. Carl will have them translated into Spanish, distribute them to City of Marlboro Recreation Director, and Gary will investigate posting them on a big sign on the side of the building at the boat launch.

2025 Meeting Schedule

- May 15, 2025, Marlborough City Hall



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- 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 8:03pm

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.