

MEETING MINUTES
Town of Spider Lake
Health, Safety and Environment Committee
November 18, 2025, at 5:30pm

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm by Chair Johnson. In attendance were members Conroy, Mickelson, Lawton, Thearin and Amery.
2. Agenda approval. Motion by Mickelson for approval, seconded by Thearin. Motion carried.
3. Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Approve minutes from September 24th meeting. Motion by Mickelson for approval, second by Thearin. Motion carried.
5. Ordinance enforcement strategy

Discussion continued on enforcement of town boating ordinances, including comments and questions from community members in attendance. A list of externally sourced enforcement strategies ranging from education and communication to formal citations and fines administered through the on-lake presence of a duly authorized individual (see Attachment A), were reviewed in the context of effectiveness, community perception and cost. Additionally, Chairman Johnson noted that the Town now has access to radar equipment for measuring boating speeds, consistent with signage to that effect posted at boat landings. Also, the existing citations ordinance for TOSL (Ordinance # 2013-01) was noted and is posted on the Town website.

An action plan for implementing the first three strategies in Attachment A – Education Campaign, Launch Site Signage and Maps, and Community Reporting Hotline/App -- will be presented at the next meeting. Committee members Lawton and Mickelson were asked to develop a plan and estimated cost for new signage.

6. "Connector" Buoy Ordinance Plan

Town Supervisor Mark Johns volunteered to draft a Town ordinance for the buoys to be placed in the body of water connecting Lost Land and Teal Lakes. An ordinance is required as part of the request to the Wisconsin DNR for advisory comments. A draft ordinance will be reviewed at the next Committee meeting.

7. Fire Department Auto Aid Agreement and Insurance Rating

Chairman Johnson reported that the Auto Aid agreement with the Town of Round Lake has been signed by both parties. This may lead to an enhanced insurance rating for the Town of Spider Lake, which could have a positive impact on insurance premiums for homeowners.

Motion to adjourn was made by Amery, seconded by Mickelson. Motion carried. Adjournment at 6:25pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Bill Amery, Vice Chair

Enforcement Strategies for Boating Ordinances

Strategy	Description	Cost to Town	Community Perception	Effectiveness
Education Campaign	Flyers at launch sites, signage at lakes, town website & social media explaining wake ordinances.	Low	Positive – seen as fair & proactive.	Moderate – reaches many but relies on voluntary compliance.
Launch Site Signage & Maps	Post large, clear maps showing “no-wake” zones and wake restrictions. Stickers handed out with boat launch receipts.	Low-Moderate (sign fabrication/maintenance).	Strongly positive – visible and practical.	High for newcomers; repeat boaters less affected.
Community Reporting Hotline / App	Residents and boaters can report violations (time, location, boat description).	Low (software or dedicated phone line).	Mixed – some see it as “neighbors policing neighbors.”	Moderate – helps spot repeat offenders but limited without follow-up enforcement.
Volunteer Lake Stewards / Ambassadors	Trained volunteers educate boaters at landings, hand out brochures, record informal observations.	Low (training & vests/shirts).	Very positive – “neighborly” approach, non-confrontational.	Moderate – good for awareness, not strong on compliance.
Warning Letters (First Offense)	When violator is identified, town sends a formal but non-punitive warning.	Low (admin time).	Neutral-positive, as long as warnings are fair.	Moderate – effective with most first-time offenders.
Administrative Citations (Town-Level)	Issuing fines for violations without court. Escalates for repeat offenders.	Moderate (staff time, processing).	Mixed – some see as fair, others resent fines.	High if consistently enforced.
Hire Off-Duty Sheriff's Deputy (Lake Patrol)	Deputies patrol during peak weekends/holidays, enforcing boating ordinances.	High (hourly rates + equipment/fuel).	Mixed – supported by residents, disliked by some boaters.	Very high – visible enforcement deters violations.

Strategy	Description	Cost to Town	Community Perception	Effectiveness
Shared Services (Multi-Town Patrol)	Partner with neighboring towns or lake associations to fund joint patrols.	Moderate-High (shared costs).	Generally positive – spreads costs fairly.	High – broader coverage possible.
Formal Citations / Court Action	Deputies issue state boating citations (go to court, higher penalties).	High (legal/admin costs).	Mixed – strong support from residents; strong pushback from cited boaters.	Very high – escalates consequences significantly.
Town-Ordered Abatement (Severe/Repeat Cases)	In rare cases, repeat violators may face loss of mooring/launch rights or injunctions.	Very high (legal fees).	Controversial – some see as necessary, others as government overreach.	Very high – stops chronic violators.