

SPECIAL TOWN BOARD MEETING (TBM) MINUTES

TOWN OF SPIDER LAKE

Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:00 pm

10896 W Town Hall Road (and by Zoom)

MINUTES

1. The Special Meeting was called to order by the Town Chair at 6:00 PM
 - **PRESENT:** Chair Sheldon, Supervisors: Amery, Delaney, Johns, and Johnson (by Zoom).
2. **Delaney moved to approve the February 26, 2025 agenda;** seconded by Johns. Motion carried.
3. Boating Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee, led by Committee Chair Berkopec
 - Committee presentation
 - Background
 - Local Condition Highlights
 - Ordinance Review - Key Findings & Recommendations
 - i. Wake Enhancing Activities
 - ii. Content & Verbiage
 - iii. Speed Limit
 - iv. Activity Hours
 - v. Enforcement
 - **COMMITTEE DISCUSSION:** Langer: 37 towns ban wake-enhancements. The immensity of boats designed with wake-enhancement technology (26 feet, 8,000 lbs., 6,000 lbs. of water ballast, 14,000 lbs. of water requiring 600 hp engines to move that weight/drag. Keil: Underscore the destruction caused by the power of the boats. Silting, turbidity, wave action catastrophic to shoreland nesting species, expanding water-skiing hours, expands unnatural wave action by many factors.
 - Questions from the Board to the Committee

DISCUSSION: Johns thanked the committee for all of their work. The research and discussion about boat speed was especially helpful. Delaney thanked the committee for their work, questions about the use of boats with wake-enhanced technology, comments about enforcement. Johnson thanked the committee for their work. Sheldon discussed the importance of paying attention to the local conditions and the fragility of the environment.
 - Chair Sheldon discussed next steps. (1) To review the report more completely and consider the recommendations offered; (2) Reach out to the committee with any further questions; (3) Possibly consider the impact of the committee's work on the Boating Ordinance at the Town's March 12 meeting.
 - **Delaney moved to receive the Boating Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee report;** seconded by Amery. Motion carried.
4. **Johns moved to adjourn;** seconded by Johnson. Motion carried.
 - Next Town Board Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Tim Sheldon, Chair
March 1, 2025

Town of Spider Lake – Boating Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee (BOAHC)
Key Findings and Recommendations

02/26/25

Key Findings

- Local Conditions
 - Water Quality/Clarity: 5 High Quality Waters, 2 Outstanding Resource Waters
 - Sensitive Areas: Spawning, nesting, aquatic vegetation, erosion protection
 - Wildlife: Loons and fisheries
- Community Input
 - Strong support for Boating ordinance
 - Health & Safety, Natural Environment, Waterfront Protection
- Wake Enhancing Activities
 - Prop wash & high energy waves
- Speed Limit
 - Ordinance in effect since 1956
 - Higher speeds increase potential for accidents
 - Plowing creates more total wave energy and 3-7 times the level of sediment disturbance
 - Elimination or increase of speed limit could increase number and usage of PWC's
- Water Activities
 - Expanded hours could lead to;
 - Additional wave activity and environmental damage
 - Increase in noise
 - Less time for non-motorized activities
- Enforcement
 - Town's responsibly
 - Legal Counsel opinion: invest time and money into enforcement

Recommendations

- Immediately enact a stand-alone local ordinance prohibiting wake surfacing and all activities that use "enhanced wakes"
- Designate Ghost Lake as a quiet lake
- Retain Legal Counsel with experience in municipal ordinances
- Retain the current 10 m.p.h. speed limit
- Retain the current hours for water skiing on the Spider Lake Chain (11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)
- Place official WDNR approved slow no wake buoys in critical areas on Lost Land and Teal lakes
- Enforcement: focus on education, evaluation of key components, and implementation of a plan that meets the needs of the Town

More Effective to Protect and Preserve rather than try to Restore