

**NEW JERSEY BOAT REGULATION COMMISSION MEETING**  
**July 14, 2021**  
**Lake Hopatcong Yacht Club**  
**74 N. Bertrand Rd.**  
**Mt Arlington, NJ 07856**

**I. MEMBERS PRESENT**

Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr.  
Shaun Blick  
Bruce Strigh  
Leonard Mangiaracina  
Roland Gehweiler Jr.  
Philip Weisbecker Jr.  
Captain Kenneth Ryan NJSP

**STAFF**

Sergeant First Class William Tirotti	NJSP, Marine Services Bureau
Sergeant Robert Frake	NJSP, Marine Services Bureau
DAG Vivek Mehta	Office of the Attorney General

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. SUNSHINE LAW ANNOUNCEMENT (OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS LAW)**

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr., at which time Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. announced that this meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of Chapter 231, Public Law 1975, known as the Open Public Meetings Act. Notice of this meeting was given by annual notice filed with the Secretary of State, the Department of Law and Public Safety website, the New Jersey State Police website and it was posted at State Police Headquarters, West Trenton, NJ.

**III. MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING**

Minutes from the May Boat Regulation Commission meetings were approved via motion by Shaun Blick, and seconded by Philip Weisbecker Jr., and voted

in favor by all members.

#### IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Seasonal PFD Mandatory Wear:**

Members discussed the cold water, gasping response when a person is immersed in cold water. New York State's rules for mandatory PFD wear in the cold water months was utilized as a demonstration of possible wording for mandatory seasonal wear, as provided by members of the New Jersey State Police. Commission member Leonard Mangiaracina proposed a 25' boat size limit for mandatory wear. A member of the public questioned if snowmobiles and ice boats would be included. Commission member Shaun Blick proposed any person year round should wear a PFD if alone in the vessel. Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. proposed adopting the measure for the State of New Jersey for mandatory seasonal PFD wear from November 1<sup>st</sup> until May 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Commission member Bruce Strigh. Commission member Phil Weisbecker Jr. addressed the effects of clothing on buoyancy and PFD fit. Discussion concluded that basic United States Coast Guard Approved Wearable Personal Flotation Devices would meet the goals of this proposal. The Commission moved a motion to adopt a regulation with similar language as N.Y. Nav. Law § 40(1)(e), and the motion was seconded. DAG Vivek Mehta advised that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making for the State would be needed.

- **Passenger requirements on PWC:**

Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. identified the problem and safety concern of PWC passengers being seated in front of the PWC operator while underway. Commission member Shaun Blick proposed wording to the effect, "It shall be unlawful for an uncertified passenger on a personal watercraft to be seated in front of its operator while underway." Sgt. Robert Frake NJSP forwarded research to the Commission taken directly from the State of Connecticut which was obtained via NASBLA in order to address this specific concern. SFC Tirotti proposed merging Shaun

Blick's proposed wording with the established Connecticut legislation. Commission member Shaun Blick advised he does not like the Connecticut law's wording and thinks we could do better. Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. stressed the speed of PWC's, as their speed dictates the need for safety, and declared that more research and rewording is needed for the next meeting, as it applies to Passenger requirements on PWC's.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

- Commission members addressed the need for research into Stand Up Paddleboard PFD wearing.

VI. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Fred Steinbaum of the Lake Hopatcong Commission wanted an explanation for how the regulations and penalties are finalized. DAG Vivek Mehta provided an explanation of the process. Donna Macalle-Holly, a Lake Hopatcong resident, asked about the length of the process for regulations and asked if the discussion would continue. Daniel McCentry of the Lake Hopatcong Commission stated that the Lake is crowded and he would like more State Police presence. He mentioned snowmobiles on the ice and PFD wearing around the waist while operating snowmobiles. Donna Macalle-Holly desired a kill switch requirement clarification. Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. confirmed it is happening. John Deermount expressed concern with overuse of the Lake, and suggested changing the limits regarding water levels on the lake. He was referred to the Department of Environmental Protection regarding lake levels. Melissa Senatore addressed her opinion that there should be safety flags required for paddleboards and kayaks on the lake, in addition to whistles. Questioned whether rental operations are properly advising the operators of the rules. SFC Tirotti replied that we could research other States' rules for flag use. John Kurman spoke about a water level management plan regarding drainage and wake. Additionally Mr. Kurman stated that PWC passenger rules should be carefully considered, so as to not make it more hazardous with new rules. Mr. Kurman additionally stated that the Boat endorsement on a person's drivers license

should suffice for meeting the Boating Safety Certificate possession requirements. Diane Del Forno inquired about more rules for 'rafting' of vessels together, stating that she sees 17 to 20 vessels rafted together with additional floats off of them. Ms. Del Forno also stressed the need for noise enforcement. Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. advised that citizens might need to petition their local towns to assist and enforce these violations. Thomas Flinn of the Lake Hopatcong Foundation stated that the wake enforcement triggers when the lake reaches a 9.5 foot water level. John Kurman stressed the need for enforcement of towing sports, sensitive environmental areas, rentals, and weekend restrictions when busiest. The Commission recommended local organization and consensus per each municipality. Marty Kane spoke to the Byram Cove Commission as a local representative of these concerns, and advised that their next meeting would be Monday night.

VII. **EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION**

Acting Chairman Ed Harrison Jr. expressed his appreciation to the providers of the facility.

VIII. **AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The Commission will continue the discussion regarding PWC passenger requirements for safety, Paddleboard and Kayak visibility via flags or other means, and Stand Up Paddleboard PFD wear requirements.

IX. **DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next Boat Regulation Commission meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place at 10:00AM on Wednesday, September 8, 2021, at the Toms River Yacht Club, 1464 Riviera Avenue, Toms River, New Jersey 08753.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned via motion at 11:36am by attending members.