

June 12, 2014

Special Town Meeting

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by First Selectman Susan Chapman at 7:00 p.m. After the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, the call of the meeting was read by Pamela Dohan, Town Clerk. Mike Gill made a motion to accept the call as read, seconded by Jim Knoblick, passed by voice vote.

Susan Chapman called for nominations for moderator. Kim Hanson nominated Michael Gill, seconded by Susan Chapman. Hearing no other nominations, Susan Chapman declared Michael Gill the Moderator.

Moderator Gill read the Resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Squantz Cove is a narrow inlet within Candlewood Lake that is wholly within the territorial limits of the Town of New Fairfield.

WHEREAS, the shores of Squantz Cove are occupied by private residences, many with boat docks, a State of Connecticut boat launch and a causeway.

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has established a Slow-No-Wake area within Squantz Cove extending from the causeway southeasterly for 1500 feet.

WHEREAS, outside of the existing Slow-No-Wake area, the day time speed limit on the waters of Squantz Cove is 45 mph.

WHEREAS, a 2009 survey of nearly 600 Candlewood Lake boaters conducted by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection found that most survey respondents accessed Candlewood Lake through the area that includes Squantz Cove and that the Squantz Cove area was among the three most popular boating areas of Candlewood Lake.

WHEREAS, the excessive wakes created by boats leaving and entering the State boat launch and using the confined waters of Squantz Cove at high speed pose a personal safety risk and have damaged docks and boats along the shoreline of Squantz Cove.

WHEREAS, the establishment of a Slow-No-Wake area for Squantz Cove extending from the causeway southeasterly for 2500 feet would improve safety on the waters of Squantz Cove and would reduce the potential for damage to boats, docks, and other property by excessive boat wakes.

WHEREAS, Section 15-136(b) of the General Statutes permits any town, by vote of its legislative body, to petition the Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection for the adoption, amendment or repeal of any regulation respecting the operation of vessels on any body of water within its territorial limits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of New Fairfield shall petition the Commissioner of the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, pursuant to General Statutes Section 15-136(b), to amend § 15-121-B15a (a)(4) of the Regulations of State Agencies of the State of Connecticut, by deleting the current § 15-121-B15a (a)(4) and substituting the following therefore:

§ 15-121-B15a. Candlewood Lake special regulation

(a) On the waters of Candlewood Lake, including Squantz Pond, no person shall operate a vessel in excess of the following speed limits:

4) Within the area of Squantz Cove, from the causeway southeasterly for ~~one~~ two thousand five hundred feet shall be a Slow-No-Wake area. Said Slow-No-Wake area ~~may at and by the sole discretion of the Commissioner,~~ shall be otherwise delineated by one regulatory marker in the vicinity of the State boat launch visible to all watercraft entering and leaving the State boat launch and one regulatory marker approximately two thousand five hundred feet southeasterly of the causeway visible to all watercraft entering Squantz Cove.

And authorizes the First Selectman to sign such petition on behalf of the Town of New Fairfield, to present said petition to the Commissioner of the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and to take any and all action in furtherance of said petition and proposed amendment.

Carol Flynn made a motion to move the Resolution to the floor for discussion, seconded by Allan Deutcher. After discussion by Otto Deluke, Susan Chapman, Tom Dinon, Ed Kreinik, Jim Knoblick, Patrick Keogh, Kevin Holick, Patricia Johnson, William Johnson, Curtis Beck, Bruce Taylor, Donna Herter, Dave Sweeney, John Jonas, Frank Forster and Patricia Dinon and letters read from 108th District State Representative, Richard Smith and 24th District State Senator, Michael McLachlan, Moderator Gill called for a motion to close discussion. Motion made by Patrick Keogh, seconded by Alan Deutcher, passed by voice vote. Moderator Gill called for a vote on the Resolution. Resolution passed by voice vote.

Moderator Gill called for a motion to adjourn. Susan Chapman made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Kim Hanson; approved by voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

47 registered voters and 13 visitors in attendance

Voice Votes

Taped

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela J. Dohan
Town Clerk