

PETITION TO REQUIRE MOORING PERMITS ON PLEASANT LAKE IN NEW LONDON , N.H.

This is a petition to request a hearing with the New Hampshire Dept. of Safety under Chapter 270:61-a to require the use of mooring permits on Pleasant Lake in New London, N.H.

Pleasant Lake is a valuable public resource preserved for the benefit of the public and fish and wildlife. It is a Class A quality cold water lake of 606 acres and home to an impressive list of wildlife species, including several state record fish species, various waterfowl species including a pair of nesting loons (a NH threatened species) and various raptor species including the American Bald Eagle. In the New Hampshire Fish & Games Wildlife Action Plan (WAP) in the category of Habitat of Ecological Importance, in the town of New London only Pleasant Lake, the Philbrick-Cricenti Bog and the eastern most part of the Esther Currier Low Plain Wildlife Management Area are listed as the Highest Ranked Habitat in NH. Fishing, swimming, snorkeling, sailing, water skiing, boating, wind surfing, canoeing, kayaking, and wildlife observation are all activities enjoyed by the public who can easily access the lake via the public boat launch next to the dam which is monitored and well maintained with nearby parking available.

Pleasant Lake currently has two mooring fields. One, at Slope 'N Shore has been in existence for many years, is well managed with secure moorings, usage controlled by Slope 'N Shore and access gained over Slope 'N Shore property where parking and rest rooms are provided. The other had been a few boats moored in the small cove near the Elkins post office and bounded by the New London town beach, playground, picnic area and parking lot and Elkins Rd. and a shorefront property owner's swimming and boat docking area. Recently, many additional moored boats (now totaling 22) have crowded into this limited space creating an unregulated mooring field with no oversight which has grown at will, without parameters for safety, toilet facilities, or other good practices, in an area already congested with swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking activities and lacking adequate parking. Common sense safety measures alone would not tolerate locating the town beach and an unregulated watercraft mooring field in close proximity to each other. In addition, these moorings do not have safe distances between them to accommodate variable weather conditions in an area particularly susceptible to high winds and waves travelling down the full sweep of the lake. This mooring site has occasionally had problems with inadequate moorings breaking or dragging, boats entangling each other or washing to shore, swimmers at risk in the mooring field and safe boating violations. Since these moorings are untended, any watercraft needing rescue is dependent on neighbors or passersby if damages to other boats, docks or possibly swamping and releasing of gas or oil into the lake is to be prevented.

Presently, except in navigation zones, there is no regulatory body, no entity to legally prevent

moorings from being indiscriminately placed anywhere on unregulated lakes in New Hampshire. There is serious concern that non-waterfront boat owners are becoming aware that anyone can establish a mooring ANYWHERE on Pleasant Lake. In fact, there are moorings scattered around the lake and several (possibly the start of a new mooring field?) in an area north of the dam and boat launch, one occupying a 60' circle directly in front of a waterfront owner's beach and closely adjacent to their raft and dock and in their swimming and water playground area. It is very likely that unregulated moorings will continue to proliferate wherever the public has access to the lake. Such access is available on both sides of the town owned land at the town beach and all along and beyond the dam and boat launch, as well as various rights-of-way and seemingly vacant lands adjacent to the lake. There are also waterfront property owners allowing long term access to friends or relatives. All of this results in the increase in the number of untended boats remaining in the water for extended periods of time which increases the risk of safety issues and possibilities of detrimental effects to the lake environment, including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and threatened species. Damage to residential, recreational, and scenic values and the restriction of the variety of uses of the lake are also of serious concern. ALL of the problems associated with the present unregulated mooring site will only be compounded as new moorings and mooring fields become established unless Pleasant Lake becomes a designated mooring lake by adopting Chapter 270:58 through Chapter 270:72.

The declaration of policy under RSA 270:1 (I.) charges the commissioner of safety with the many duties in the interest of public safety and the protection of property regarding public waters. Under RSA 270:1 (II.) declaration of policy that "In the interest of maintaining the residential, recreational and scenic values which New Hampshire public waters provide to residents of the state and to the promotion of our tourist industry, and in light of the fact that competing uses for the enjoyment of these waters, if not regulated for the benefit of all users may diminish the value to be derived from them, it is hereby declared that the public waters of New Hampshire shall be maintained and regulated in such a way as to provide for the safe and mutual enjoyment of a variety of uses, both from the shore and from waterborne conveyances. Such provisions shall take into consideration the following: the variety of special uses appropriate to our lakes, public safety, protection of environment and water quality, and the continued nurture of New Hampshire's threatened and endangered species".

The statement of intent under RSA 270:60

I. "The general court finds that:

(a) Water is a public resource held in trust by the state and that the state maintains jurisdiction to control the use of public waters for the greatest public benefit; and

(b) The public waters are a significant asset which enhances the well-being and lifestyle of the state's citizens, benefit the state's substantial tourist industry and the environment, and are a habitat for many fish and wildlife; and

(c) That undue proliferation of moorings is detrimental to the integrity of the state's waters and the public's enjoyment thereof."

This all means that, although the general court recognized the need to regulate moorings for the public and fish and wildlife, it only gave the regulating authority to the Dept. of Safety for the big lakes (Sunapee etc.) and left the rest of the lakes with no regulatory body unless they petition for a hearing with the Dept. of Safety to be so regulated. It certainly seems that the needs of public safety, fish and wildlife, water quality and all the competing uses and users of Pleasant Lake should enjoy the same regulations and protection as provided to the big lakes by the Dept. of Safety.

PETITION OF RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS OF NEW LONDON, N.H. TO ENROLL PLEASANT LAKE IN THE MOORINGS PROGRAM, CHAPTER 270:59 THROUGH CHAPTER 270:72.

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9/4/17	ANNE-MARIE KEVERSON	Ann Marie Keveson	141 Wilmot Center Rd NEW LONDON	shakersta over12an.net
9/4/17	VERNE BARRETT	Verne Barrett	25 SOUTHW ROAD	
9/4/17	Judy Barrett	Judy Barrett	" "	"
9/4/17	Susan Kenney	Susan Kenney	115 Lamson Lane New London, NH	thekenneys cspkenney.com
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