

Town of East Haddam
Public Hearing Minutes
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Auditorium
Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 7:00PM
LIVE & VIA YOUTUBE LIVE

Attending: I. Haines, First Selectman
T. Bourgoin, Selectman
E. Dill, Selectman
L. Zemienieski, Executive Manager
Approximately 150 Members of the Public

Ms. Haines opened the Public Hearing and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential ordinance language regarding prohibiting wake-surfing and wake boats on the waters of Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir and to obtain public input on the proposed ordinance. She opened the floor to public comments.

Stephanie Denya provided a presentation on wake-surfing, including how the boats operate, their environmental impact, how they can spread invasive species into lakes, the safety hazards, and a video of the Lake Waramaug study on wake-surfing boats. She reviewed a list of Connecticut towns and states that have adopted ordinances prohibiting wake-surfing boats.

Nancy Bordick provided information on her professional background. She stated that she feels the concerns about wake boats have been sensationalized and that there is no scientific evidence of them causing problems if operated correctly. She reviewed a presentation on her research on wake-surfing boats. She stated that she had volunteered to work with the Bashan Lake Association to develop a compromise solution, but the board had not taken her up on her offer. She asked the Board of Selectmen to consider the research on wake-surf boats, consider what other states have implemented and craft regulations-based science.

Ms. Haines read correspondence from the following citizens who supported an ordinance banning wake-surfing boats on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir:

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|-------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| • Jayne Pearson | • Bob Crochetiere | • Elizabeth Baledes |
| • Craig & Christina Chalifoux | • Susan Sabo-Bengtson | • Kimberly Bermani |
| • Arnold Olsen | • Patrick Capel | • Carol Gilbert |
| • Susan Deguzis | • Donald Massoni | • Paula Robinson |
| • Brenda Magoveny | • Donald & Judy Lorusso | • Michele Santoro |
| • Stuart Magoveny | • Sharon & Gary Trombley | • Kathi Hutchinson |
| • John Gowac | • Zach Jezek | • Brent Borgnine |
| • Bruce & Chris Fletcher | • Matt Cronin & Family | • Ed Gubbins |
| • Dr. Gregory Egnaczyk | • Gretchen Buys | • Unsigned email |

The following citizens spoke in support of an ordinance banning wake-surf boats on the lakes:

- Bill Denya – President, Bashan Lake Assn
- David Shelberg- President, Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group
- Jennifer Cavanaugh – Treasurer, Sunset Acres Beach Assn
- Jason Cavanaugh

- AnnMarie Galdenzi
- Katherine Huth
- Stephen Cohen
- Roberta Denya
- Mary Milewski
- Jim Lynch

- Maryellen DiLuzio, representing Sunset Acres Beach Association which unanimously voted in support of the ordinance. Ms. DiLuzio also delivered a petition supporting the ordinance, signed by 100+ members of the Association.
- Michael Widger – Mr. Widger delivered a petition in support of the ordinance, signed by 12 citizens.
- Scott Jezek – Mr. Jezek also encouraged Selectman Dill to recuse himself from any vote on an ordinance banning wake-surfing boats from Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir due to his declared predetermination on the issue.
- Bill Denya – delivered a petition supporting the ordinance signed by 150 citizens.

Ms. Haines read correspondence from the following citizens who did not support an ordinance banning wake-surfing boats on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir:

- Patrick Dabrowski
- Victoria Drumski
- Linda Simmons
- Brian Katz

The following citizens spoke against an ordinance banning wake-surf boats on the lakes:

- Jason Hoops
- Jack Bordick
- Andy Bordick
- Tyler LeClaire

The following citizens either spoke or submitted correspondence with questions about the ordinance, expressing concern about the current draft language of the ordinance, and/or encouraging compromise alternative solutions to an ordinance banning wake-surfing boats from the lakes:

- Eric Chamberland
- Mary Lattarulo
- Christine Piera
- Michele Wytas & Jason Torrance
- Steven Kuczynski
- Eric Dornfeld
- Calvin Bordick
- Kyle Becker
- Kendra Cika
- Fred Dauser
- Carol Martin
- Rob Hoops

Mr. Greg Bugby of the Connecticut Agriculture Station stated that he has worked with the Bashan Lake Association since the 1990's, primarily on controlling/eliminating invasive aquatic plant

species. He noted that the lake is an unusually clean lake and he said he would be available after the meeting to take questions from the public.

Ms. Haines stated that she feels further discussion of the question about whether or not to move forward with an ordinance restricting/banning wake-surf boats on Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir warrants further discussion and it will be on the agenda for the Board of Selectmen's July 16th meeting. She advised that, if an ordinance is in order, it will be sent to a Town Meeting for a public vote.

The Public Hearing ended at 9:35 p.m.

Recorded