



**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE LAKE LURE MARINE
COMMISSION HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2020, 4:00 P.M. HELD VIA
ZOOM**

PRESENT Mayor Carol C. Pritchett
VIA ZOOM: Mayor Pro Tem John Moore
Commissioner Patrick Bryant
Commissioner David DiOrio
Commissioner John Kilby
Shannon Baldwin, Town Manager
William Morgan, Jr., Town Attorney

ABSENT: N/A

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carol C. Pritchett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Council unanimously agreed to approve the Agenda as presented.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public requested to speak during this time.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Carol C. Pritchett presented the Consent Agenda and asked if any other items should be removed before calling for action.

Commissioner John Moore made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner Patrick Bryant seconded. Therefore, the Consent Agenda incorporating the following items was unanimously approved and adopted:

- A. Adopt of the June 9, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes, the July 14, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes, and the August 26, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no unfinished business items to discuss.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. SUSPENSION OF BOATING PERMIT PRIVILEGES AND APPROVAL OF NOTIFICATION LETTER

Marine Commission members held discussion in regards to suspending Carl Stecker from further use of the Lake for three years as a result of a recent BWI incident and boating accident that occurred on April 4, 2020 and the dates of the suspension. Attorney Morgan explained that the Lake Use Regulations state that use of the Lake can be suspended “upon conviction” and the date the suspension begins should not be before his conviction date. He reported that Mr. Stecker plead guilty to boating while impaired at his court hearing. The Commission agreed to begin the suspension immediately and end after Labor Day, 2023, and include that future purchase of a boat permit be subject to approval of the Marine Commission, the availability of permits at that time, and the permit shall be at full price. They also agreed that this matter be revisited after Labor Day, 2023 to validate that Mr. Stecker performed the NC Boater’s Safety Course and that no additional offenses or civil citations occurred during the three year suspension period. PRLD Dean Givens suggested that the Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director, the Town Manager, and the Lake Advisory Board be involved as well. Attorney Morgan stated he would make changes to the notification letter based on the comments received and will share the letter with the Board prior to sending to Mr. Stecker’s attorney.

Commissioner Patrick Bryant made a motion to approve the notification letter, as amended during discussion, to suspend Mr. Stecker’s boating permit privileges from now until after Labor Day, 2023, to include the entity that owns the property at 1883 Buffalo Shoals Road, Fusion Enterprises, Inc., and any entity owned by Stecker or in which he has an ownership interest and to prevent Mr. Stecker from operating any boat on the Lake and specifically banning his permitted boat. Commissioner Kilby seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

B. LAKE FEE SCHEDULE ADOPTION

Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director Dean Givens presented the proposed Lake Fee Schedule and highlighted on the proposed boat permit fee increases recommended by the Lake Advisory Board (LAB). The LAB was tasked with finding a way to increase revenues to make the Parks, Recreation and Lake Department self-sustainable. The LAB provided the following recommendation on increases to certain boat permit fees:

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1. Increase Commercial Non-Motorized from \$100 to \$150.
 2. Increase Vacation Rental from \$1,500 to \$2,000
 3. Increase Tours from \$2,000 to \$3,000
 4. Increase Towed Water Activities from \$1,500 to \$2,000
 5. Increase Non-Resident annual Motorized from \$550 to \$650
 6. Increase Residential Non-Motorized from \$40 to \$60
 7. Increase Residential Annual Motorized from \$200 to \$300
- LAB vote was 6 Yes and 1 No – Majority Vote

Adding a potential Cluster Mooring fee of ~ \$100
LAB vote 4 Yes and 3 No – Majority Vote

Mandatory hour meters on commercial boats
LAB vote 3 Yes and 4 No – Motion did not pass – Not a majority vote.

Marine Commission members discussed hour meters for commercial boats and felt that the meters would provide valuable information for the Lake Model and on lake usage. Mr. Givens agreed that the hour meters would be useful in helping to determine fees for lake use. Commissioner Moore requested that Mr. Givens devise a system for obtaining data from the meters. Commissioner DiOrio expressed concerns with increasing non-motorized fees as he felt it may contribute to the problem with the number of non-permitted non-motorized vessels on the Lake. He stated that a lot of people feel the prices for these stickers are already exuberant and are choosing to not purchase a sticker but are still using the Lake. He pointed out that approving the cluster mooring fee (without approving the increase to the resident annual non-motorized fee) still meets the financial goal that the LAB was challenged with. Commissioner Moore reported that he has heard complaints in regards to wake surfing and boats throwing out tremendous wake and suggested that the LAB discuss this matter.

Discussion ensued regarding lake patrol. Mr. Givens explained that COVID has hampered the ability to train officers this year. He pointed out that Dana Bradley, Parks, Recreation, and Trails Coordinator, will be certified as a law enforcement officer next year and will help with patrolling the Lake mentioning that there will be a big change next year in police coverage on the Lake. Commissioner Kilby brought up the idea of applying a fee to lakefront vacation rental homes to cover renters who choose to bring their own watercraft vessels when visiting.

Commissioner DiOrio proposed approving the Lake Fee Schedule as presented, with the exception of increasing the annual non-motorized fees. He recommended revisiting after this boating season to review how the change affected revenue and the Lake Model. Mayor Pritchett commented that the largest complaint she hears regarding non-motorized vessels is them being in the middle of the Lake. Commissioner DiOrio commented that this is a separate training issue that needs to be addressed later this year.

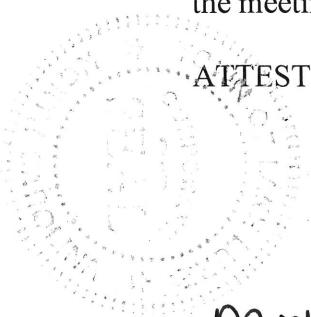
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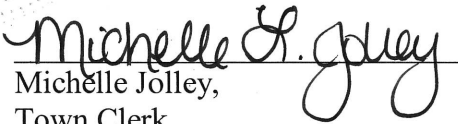
Commissioner John Kilby made a motion to adopt the Lake Fee Schedule, as amended during discussion, and require hour meters be installed for commercial boats. Commissioner David DiOrio seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

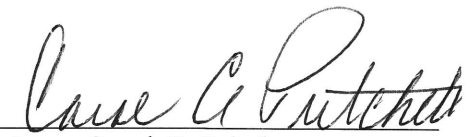
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Commissioner John Moore made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:36 p.m. Commissioner John Kilby seconded and the motion carried 4-0.

ATTEST:




Michelle Jolley,
Town Clerk


Mayor Carol C. Pritchett