

COMMISSION TO EXAMINE THE EFFECTS OF WAKE BOATS IN THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, (HB 137, Chapter 77:1, Laws of 2019) Room 305, LOB

Monday, September 23, 2019 1 PM

Minutes

- I. Call to order:
 - a. First named House member, Representative Suzanne Smith, called the meeting to order at 1 PM.

- II. Introductions:
 - a. Members: Representative Smith, Senator Ward, Captain Tim Dunleavy (Marine Patrol), Winston Sims, Kelly Buchanan, Scott Behner, David Mankus, Shane Carey, Sarah Yuhas Kirn (NHDES), John Whalley, Maggie Ford, Peter MacCallum, Chris Bischoff
 - b. Many guests in the audience introduced themselves.

- III. Electing a chair and identifying a clerk:
 - a. Senator Ward made a motion to nominate Representative Smith as chair. Kelly seconded the motion. No other nominations for chair were received. Representative Smith was unanimously approved as chair.
 - b. The chair asked for volunteers to serve as clerk. Kelly volunteered and assumed the role.

- IV. Reviewing the charge of the commission and the commission's deadline:
 - a. The commission is tasked with examining the effects of wake boats on shoreline erosion, the spread of aquatic invasive species, the safety of swimmers and other boaters, and the popularity/economic impact of wake/ballast boats.
 - b. The commission must issue a final report by June 2020, which can include information and recommendations on future policies.

- V. Representative Smith asked the members present to express their questions, concerns and comments regarding the commission's future work. Items discussed included:
 - a. How much has the sport of wake surfing grown? Have the sales of boats increased dramatically over time?
 - b. What goes into operating a wake/ballast boat? What are the logistics associated with the ballast tanks for different water activities?
 - c. How do wake boats provide versatility for different types of recreation? (surfing vs. skiing, tubing, etc.).
 - d. What are the physical effects on lakes? Senator Ward expressed the commission should go and see the impacts to shoreline erosion and water turbidity in-person.

- e. Captain Dunleavy told the commission Marine Patrol has received about 40 complaints regarding the music played on wake boats or boats used for wake boarding/surfing this summer. He explained the time of day the music is played, the type of lyrics (offensive or inappropriate) and the volume of the music are included in the complaints. He also explained safe passage is a problem with all boats and it can be difficult to identify a ballast boat as it passes. The Captain stated there were 2 reportable incidents of boat damage from the wake of ballast boats this summer.
- f. How do the large waves created by ballast boats disrupt or damage docks, private property, access to paddle craft landings and safety while participating in passive recreation (swimming, paddling)?
- g. How do the wakes of ballast boats affect loon nests, other nesting birds and wildlife? The commission expressed interested in having the Loon Preservation Committee present on this topic.
- h. Behavior changes and education can play a role in solving some concerns over ballast boat use, per the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA). The WSIA supports 200' setbacks and has a committee to find solutions for the increased risk of aquatic invasive species spread associated with ballast boats.
- i. Many expressed that the transport of aquatic invasive species in ballast tanks is a concern.

VI. Schedule the next meeting:

- a. Please complete the Doodle poll distributed by the clerk. Our next meeting in October will be a field trip to Peter's marina.

VII. Adjourn:

- a. Maggie (?) made a motion to adjourn. Kelly seconded. The commission adjourned unanimously at 1:45 PM.