

MINUTES
Lake Ordinances Review Committee
(Town of Oakland & Lake District Boards)
April 29, 2004

The meeting started at 3:00 p.m. at the Lake District office. Committee members present included John Molinaro, Paul Jorstad and Lynn Anderson. Dennis McCarthy participated via speaker phone. Paul Dearlove was also in attendance to record minutes and serve as a technical consultant.

Molinaro initiated the meeting by outlining the committee's purpose and objectives. Key findings were then summarized from the Lake District's recreational carrying capacity report. Members concurred that further action was warranted to help reduce user conflict and alleviate overcrowding on Lake Ripley. Improving safety and protecting the lake from unnecessary environmental damage were also cited as concerns. The committee began by reviewing existing Town ordinances that regulate access and lake use. The following comments and preliminary recommendations were made:

Oakland Town Ordinance #2

Jorstad suggested raising the public boat launch fees. Committee members unanimously agreed that the fees should be raised to the maximum allowed by state law, and that the self-registration envelopes needed to be updated accordingly. The resulting fee structure would be \$5.00 for a resident daily pass; \$7.00 for a non-resident daily pass; \$18.00 for a resident annual pass; \$25.00 for a non-resident annual pass; \$9.00 for a senior citizen annual pass; and \$10.00 for duplicate/replacement passes. Molinaro suggested that the terms "resident" and "non-resident" needed to be defined in the ordinance. The other committee members agreed, and there was some discussion on how these terms should be defined. Dearlove recalled that a person who owns property in the Town of Oakland or Village of Cambridge is currently considered a resident for purposes of the ordinance. He said he would contact the Town Clerk to verify the accuracy of this definition. Jorstad suggested that the committee consider recommending the issuance of stickers, rather than plastic decals, for annual pass holders. He said the purpose was to eliminate the potential for transferring launch privileges to non-paying users. Dearlove requested that the committee also consider modifying the designated slow-no-wake zones to better protect shallow areas. Given the complexity and contentious nature of the issue, it was agreed that the matter would be deliberated at a future meeting date.

Oakland Town Ordinance #42

Molinaro felt the ordinance needed to specifically restrict keyhole subdivisions and funnel developments. Anderson suggested that the Town incorporate any such restrictive language into its growth plan. She also felt it would be helpful to know the amount of undeveloped shoreline parcels that could support keyholing. Dearlove said he would attempt to get that information prior to the next meeting. Dearlove also contented that the ordinance was originally intended to keep piers, wharves and swim rafts from being placed in designated sensitive areas. He explained that the current ordinance simply specifies that a DNR permit must be obtained before placing such structures. Committee members agreed that any new structures should be expressly prohibited within designated sensitive areas. It was further agreed that existing structures within these areas should be grandfathered, but only if legally placed. Jorstad cautioned that extra care must be taken in determining what piers are legal, and that it is not always very clear. Dearlove added that he would like to see a clearer definition of sensitive areas in the ordinance. He felt these areas were presently defined in very general terms, and that linear features on a map do not accurately represent their true extent.

The committee decided it would spend most of the next meeting talking about keyhole subdivisions. Meanwhile, Dearlove volunteered to research keyholing ordinances that already exist elsewhere. Anderson offered to develop definitions that would be consistent with the Town's growth plan. The next meeting was then set for June 9, 2004, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake District office. The agenda will include reviewing the sensitive area definition and continuing discussion on keyhole subdivisions.

The meeting ended at 4:30 p.m.