

VERMONT WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Petition of the Lake Fairlee)
) Preliminary
Association for rules to)
) Findings of Fact
regulate the uses of Lake Fairlee)

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Following are the preliminary Findings of Fact, issued in accordance with 10 V.S.A. 905(c)(3) by the referee appointed by the Vermont Water Resources Board to conduct the hearing on the petition filed pursuant to 10 V.S.A. 1424 by the Lake Fairlee Association to have the Board adopt rules to regulate the uses of the public waters of Lake Fairlee. The petition requested rules to:

(a) insure adequate environmental protection of Lake Fairlee, long one of Vermont's cleanest and most unspoiled small lakes

and

(b) allow mutual enjoyment of the lake by those who want to swim, sail, canoe, motorboat, waterski, fish, or otherwise use the lake for appropriate recreation.

Preliminary Findings of Fact

1. The surface area of Lake Fairlee is approximately 465 acres, and the waters drain into the East Branch of the Ompompanoosuc River. There is a net annual outflow of 18,800 acre feet, which is equivalent to a mean annual flow of 26 cubic feet per second. The mean turnover, or flushing time, is about seven months.
2. The 35,000 feet of shoreline is extensively developed, with some eighty Summer residences and six Summer camp complexes situated around the lake.
3. Water depths average 23.5 feet, with a maximum depth of 51 feet near the south end.
4. The waters presently receive moderate to heavy recreational usage, with swimming, fishing, boating and waterskiing being the principal activities.

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5. The waters of Lake Fairlee are suitable for a wide range of recreational activities, including motorboating and water-skiing.
6. The Vermont Fish and Game Department maintains a boat launching ramp at their fishing access off Route 113 on the north shore of the lake. The question of ownership of that property and whether or not the access is available for purposes other than fishing was left unresolved.
7. The lake and shoreline, in spite of relatively extensive shoreline development, are quite scenic. Recreational use of the area is available to shoreline property owners, persons attending the Summer camps, and to the general public.
8. Adequate enforcement of the existing "Laws and Regulations Governing Use and Registration of Motorboats" would resolve most of the problems of conflicting uses of the waters expressed at the hearing.

Any interested person may file exceptions to these preliminary Findings of Fact, or file a request for further Findings, or both, on or before Monday, August 6, 1975, with the undersigned referee, at the Vermont Water Resources Board, Agency of Environmental Conservation, Montpelier, Vermont 05602.

Done this 22nd day of July, 1975, at Montpelier, Vermont.

By authority of the Vermont Water Resources Board

Catharine A. Bothwell
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Executive Secretary