



State of Vermont

AGENCY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

Montpelier, Vermont 05602

VERMONT WATER RESOURCES BOARD

Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
Environmental Board
Division of Environmental Engineering
Division of Environmental Protection
Natural Resources Conservation Council
Vermont Water Resources Board

October 14, 1980

To the Friends of Lake St. Catherine:

The Vermont Water Resources Board, after careful consideration of comments received at the public hearing held in the Town of Wells on August 25, 1980, has proposed the following rules to regulate the use of Lake St. Catherine:

1. Waterskiing is prohibited in the following waters:
 - a. All portions of Lily Pond and the channel connecting Lily Pond and Lake St. Catherine.
 - b. All portions of the channel connecting Little Lake (also known as Little Pond) and Lake St. Catherine.
2. The operation of vessels powered by motor at speeds exceeding five (5) miles per hour or in such a manner as to cause a disturbing wake is prohibited in the following waters:
 - a. All portions of Lily Pond and the channel connecting Lily Pond and Lake St. Catherine.
 - b. All portions of the channel connecting Little Lake (also known as Little Pond) and Lake St. Catherine.
3. For purposes of this regulation only, the term "channel" as used in rules 1 and 2 above, shall mean those waters within and contiguous to Lake St. Catherine which are less than 400 feet in width and which serve to connect that Lake with Lily Pond or Little Lake (also known as Little Pond).
4. Boats or vehicles owned or operated by agencies of the State of Vermont shall comply with these rules at all times except in cases where law enforcement, emergencies or the performance of official duties requires otherwise.

upw 79-02premem

Friends of Lake St. Catherine
October 14, 1980
Page Two

Since the Board has already held a public hearing to discuss this problem, we have not scheduled a second public hearing on the proposed rules at this time. However, a second hearing will be held if there is sufficient interest to warrant such a second hearing. For your information, state law dealing with the adoption of rules and regulations would require that the Board hold a public hearing if requested to do so within the comment period (deadline November 14, 1980) by 25 persons, a governmental subdivision or agency including the town Board of Selectmen or an association having not less than 25 members. Additionally, prior to taking final action on the proposed rules, the Board must consider any written comments received at its Montpelier Office on or before November 14, 1980.

With regard to a number of concerns expressed at the August hearing regarding litter, the washing of dogs and boats, night fishing and similar problems, the Board has proposed no regulatory action. Essentially, the Board feels that these are problems which are either already covered by existing laws or regulations and/or which are best dealt with by means of educational efforts. In this regard the Board would note that lake associations and similar organizations, perhaps with some technical assistance from the state, to sponsor educational efforts covering boating and water use etiquette, state laws and regulations, governing boating and the use of public waters as well as including information as to the proper manner by which to report violations. Additionally, the Board has indicated to the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, its support of the suggestion that all individuals registering motorboats would receive a copy of the regulations governing their use as well as its support of the idea that the completion of a course in boating safety become a requirement for the operation of a motorboat in Vermont. The latter requirement would of course need to be authorized by the Vermont Legislature.

In closing, the Board appreciates the many thoughtful comments and suggestions presented to it regarding this matter and would welcome any additional comments and constructive criticisms. Such comments should be sent to the Vermont Water Resources Board, State Office Building, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (telephone 828-2871).

By Authority of the Water Resources Board



WILLIAM A. BARTLETT
Executive Secretary