

Van Vliet Lake Association Board Meeting
June 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am. Attending were Ed Brodsky, Jeff Burke, Ronie Jacobsen, Tom Olson, Diane Schroeder and Jim Sprester.

Today's agenda included how to present our position on the Hazardous Wakes Proposed Ordinance. Discussion of final changes to the letter authored by members of the board was approved and it was decided to send letters to the Town Chairman, Town Board Members and the Town Clerk signed by all VVLA Board Members. Another letter was written to be sent to the property owners on Van Vliet Lake, informing the property owners about the proposed ordinance. A motion to send both letters via email when possible and paper otherwise was given by Tom Olson and seconded by Jeff Burke and approved. Copies of both letters are attached.

Ronie was contacted by a resident of Van Vliet Lake regarding a proposed carport addition to their property asking for the Board's approval. It was decided to reply that we have no control of building permits.

Delivery of our welcome packet was discussed and more packets will be available at the Annual Meeting July 17, 2021 at Pipke Park.

The final item on the agenda was the finalizing of the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the VVLA , members agreed to speak on different subjects at the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Schroeder

June 25, 2021

To: John MacLean, Town Chairman
Cathy Logan Weber, Board Member
Carl Wolter, Board Member



CC: Lorine Walters, Town Clerk

By a unanimous vote, the Van Vliet Lake Association Board of Directors would like to go on record as being in strong support of the proposed Hazardous Wakes Ordinance. This would prohibit the operation of a boat in a manner that intentionally magnifies its wake for recreational purposes on lakes in Presque Isle Township.

Van Vliet Lake is a relatively small and shallow lake, and the operation of wake boats or other boats creating large wakes could cause irreparable damage; create extreme turbulence and wave action further promulgating abundant aquatic plant life; introduce additional aquatic invasive species; cause significant property and shoreline destruction (particularly to those piers on the east shoreline); and create potentially very dangerous and hazardous situations for fishing boats, waterskiers, pleasure boaters, kayakers, swimmers and other users.

The stated purpose of our lake association is to preserve and protect Van Vliet Lake and its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values of Van Vliet Lake as a public recreational facility for today and future generations.

Enacting the Hazardous Wake Ordinance would help make Van Vliet Lake safer for the large number of users, help to protect the property, and avoid the degradation of water quality. Similar ordinances exist in other communities in Wisconsin, and we urge Presque Isle to join those communities in more effectively protecting its #1 physical resource – its lakes.

Please pass this ordinance.

Sincerely,

Van Vliet Lake Association Board of Directors

Ed Brodsky
Jeff Burke
Ronie Jacobsen
Tom Olson
Mark Osberg
Diane Schroeder
Andy Sisler
Jim Sprester

June 25, 2021



To: Van Vliet Lakefront Property Owners

From: Van Vliet Lake Association Board of Directors

Dear Property Owner:

Lakes everywhere are faced with an increasing number of issues that encompass threats of decreasing lake water quality, shoreline damage, loss of fish habitat and wildlife disruption due to factors that didn't exist even 20 years ago. You are no doubt aware of aquatic invasive species (AIS) problems found in a substantial number of lakes in the State and the costly interventions to control such infestations. But another threat is beginning to present itself in the form of high-powered boats built specifically to produce substantial wave action allowing water enthusiasts to literally surf behind or adjacent to these slow-moving vessels. The boats are equipped with huge bladders filled with water that prevent the boat from achieving plane. This action produces huge water movement producing a large wake but unfortunately also produces substantial underwater physical disturbance that disrupts lake bottoms, pulling vegetation, silt and other lake bottom deposits to the surface.

When the DNR originally promulgated rules of boat operation they never envisioned this kind of technological challenge to stable lake bottoms and no such rules of operation exist to deal with the unintended consequences of this sort of disruption. While Presque Isle is fortunate to have a 200' no wake zone near shore, wake boats produce substantial underwater disturbance when operating in water depths of 16'.

Townships in Wisconsin have successfully enacted ordinances that prohibit the operation of a boat in a manner that intentionally magnifies its wake for recreational purposes. It is very unclear whether the current Town Board would consider such a rule. Lake Associations like ours were formed to protect and enhance lake and lakeshore environments and it is clearly within the rights and responsibilities of lakeshore property owners (also known as taxpayers) to request from duly elected Town officials that they both create and support legislation that does in fact protect our beautiful lake environments.

You may contact Presque Isle Town Chair John MacLean by email john@piwi.us or phone 920 214-3301, Carl Wolter carl@piwi.us or 715 686-2622, or Cathy Logan Weber, cathy@piwi.us or 715 686-7795. The first two listed Town Supervisors seem least interested in any sort of ordinance directed at wake boat operation although a very thorough and legal drafted document has been produced by the Ordinance Committee.

Please consider protecting your investment here by reaching out and speaking your mind on this important topic.

Sincerely,
VVLA Board of Directors