

## DRAFT

Proposal to amend the  
ORDINANCE CONCERNING USE OF CEDAR LAKE  
CEDAR LAKE BEACHES AND PARKING AREAS

Town of Chester

Add:

The launching or retrieving of vessels with the use of any type of trailer used for transportation over the road, is prohibited on the shores of Cedar Lake.

The use of combustion engines or manual mechanical propulsion for vessels on the waters of Cedar Lake is prohibited. Only the use of electric motors, paddles, poles, oars or sails are permitted.

All vessels before being launched or used on the waters of Cedar Lake must be clean and free of aquatic vegetation in accordance with State Of Connecticut regulations for vessels.

Vessels used by Law Enforcement agencies, Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services are exempt from this section of the ordinance. The Town Selectman's Office, may issue a permit to exempt any vessel from this section of the ordinance and may make special requirements for issuance of the permit. The permit shall be valid for no more than twelve calendar months from the date of issue and may be revoked at the discretion of the Selectman's Office. Any vessel issued a permit to be exempt from this section, as a condition of that permit, must be kept on Cedar Lake or the immediate shore line of Cedar Lake and be operated or used only on the waters of Cedar Lake. Violation of the conditions of the permit to exempt a vessel from this section, shall be considered a violation of this section.

The penalty for violation of this section shall be one hundred and fifty dollars for the first offense, three hundred dollars for any subsequent offense, and revocation of any permit issued for exempting a vessel from this section.

ATTY

## ORDINANCE CONCERNING WATERCRAFT USE OF CEDAR LAKE

In order to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic species into the waters of Cedar Lake, only watercraft craft powered by the use of electric motors, paddles, poles, oars or sails are permitted in the waters of Cedar Lake.

The launching or retrieving of watercraft by the use of any type of trailer, cart or other similar device is prohibited on the shores of Cedar Lake.

All watercraft, gear, paddles, floats, ropes, anchors, dip nets, before being launched or used on the waters of Cedar Lake, must be clean and dried and free of aquatic vegetation and cleaned of any aquatic plants, animals, and mud. All water from watercraft, sponges, bailers, live bait containers, pumps and similar water containing devices must be thoroughly drained and removed before approaching or launching in the waters of Cedar Lake.

Watercraft used by Law Enforcement agencies, Fire Departments and Emergency Medical Services during emergency responses or patrols are exempt from this section of the ordinance.

A fine of not exceeding One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) shall be imposed for each violation of this ordinance by each person.

## First Selectman

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**From:** Tom Englert <tenglert@whelen.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 8:24 AM  
**To:** First Selectman; Charlene Janecek  
**Subject:** FW: Cedar Lake Trailered Boat and Outboard Motor Ban

Hi Lauren and Charlene,  
I received a phone call from John King last week after the Valley Courier article on Cedar Lake came out. He is quite concerned about the possibility of banning motor boats from the lake. Below is a follow up email outlining his concerns I also received from him. As this is the type of public feedback we were hoping to solicit, I wanted to share it with you.  
Tom



Tom Englert  
Software Developer - IT

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**From:** John King <john.king.05@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 4:44 PM  
**To:** Tom Englert <tenglert@whelen.com>  
**Subject:** Cedar Lake Trailered Boat and Outboard Motor Ban

### External Sender

Tom, I am contacting you concerning the recent article in the Valley Courier concerning the banning of trailered and outboard motor powered boats. I am totally against this and ask that the Board of Selectman do not consider this proposal.

Although not currently a resident surrounding the lake area I grew up on the lake at a cottage (36 Cedar Lake Rd) that was in my family until the early 80's. I have been a full time resident of Chester from 1977 when I married my wife who is a life long Chester resident. As a side note I did some years ago try to get on the Cedar Lake Bd. but was told even though I was a resident because I didnt live adjacent to the lake I was not permitted to be on the committee, totally ridiculous. My wife's grandfather was also the person who deeded the current boat launch area land to the State for the purpose of utilizing it as a boat ramp, it is not owned by the Town. If the launching of boats is no longer permitted would this property refer back to the heirs?

Weed control issues are not a new thing for the lake. In the late 60's early 70's issues started to arise. As I was concerned I was able to stir enough interest in the issue and convinced Linda Emmons I believe it was at that time to push for a Grant that the Town received to use for weed removal, another study was however reviewed. Throughout the years either the Town or private individuals have retained the services of hydro raking services. The problem with this operation is that you get a good surface looking area upon completion but all that has been accomplished is the cutting of the weeds approximately 5ft below the water surface. It should also be noted that the process promotes the reseeding of the weeds from the disturbance. This process is also not a one and done operation, it should be completed continually. The placement of a membrane was also tried in the area of the boat ramp however it just eventually floated to the surface.

In the 90's I had provided information to the Martin Heft the First Selectman at the time concerning the weed eradication that was completed at Lake Congamon and Silver Lake. After much effort over the years with the above described methods a chemical process was used acceptable to the Dept. of Enviro. Protection. This however will probably be the

only method which will resolve the problem as draining or dredging is not possible. THIS PROCESS CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED SAFELY WITHOUT HARM TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

Currently weed growth can be seen as far as the middle of the lake as early as the opening day of fishing season in early April. It is virtually impossible to deep troll for trout anymore due to the conditions. Resolving the weed issue will probably not get serious until it impacts the Town Beach at the south end of the lake or the operations of Camp Hazen.

The Town not only needs to look at the weed issue within the lake but also the tributary from the north to David Road. This area has become totally overgrown and unnavigatable, which in the day was totally open. Camp Hazen use to paddle their canoes up through this area on a nightly basis.

There is also concern about the water quality at the Town Beach on Cedar Lake Rd., it was indicated that water quality has been deficient due to runoff. The problem with this is that yes in the past this was believed to be the cause however recently we have had no rain of any substance to cause a runoff problem. Also for those that remember the Town relocated the discharge of the roadway drainage away from the beach area directly to try and remedy this situation. The pure fact is that every year there were water quality issues due to lack of rainfall and stagnant water as far back to the 60's. The Town probably needs to start a watershed review program of the area looking for issues that affect water quality.

I am concerned about weed control and the long term life of the lake, I am not in favor of limiting access which the proposed ban would do to everyone that is not direct water front. Additional education should be promoted, the limiting of trailered boats, however apparently allowing roof top or pickup bed sized boats and kayaks can still promote weed growth. You would need to totally quarantine any floating device to stop unwanted intrusion the question is how would you accomplish this. Not allowing outboard motors further takes away the recreational ability to enjoy the lake.

Thanks.

## First Selectman

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**From:** Tom Englert <tenglert@whelen.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 8:24 AM  
**To:** First Selectman; Charlene Janecek  
**Subject:** FW: Cedar Lake

Additional email sent to me concerning the lake

Tom Englert  
Software Developer - IT

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Steve Melanson <smelanson@snydercivil.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, September 19, 2020 8:08 PM  
**To:** Tom Englert <tenglert@whelen.com>  
**Subject:** Cedar Lake

External Sender

Please reconsider any ideas about not allowing trailered motor boats on Cedar Lake. I've been going there for years and it is truly one of my favorite bodies of water to fish on.

Thanks, Steve Melanson

Sent from my iPhone

## First Selectman

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**From:** Alex Maxwell <amaxwell5@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 9:30 PM  
**To:** First Selectman  
**Subject:** Cedar Lake Ordinance

Hello Lauren,

I am writing to asking to consider a different path on the Cedar Lake Ordinance that is scheduled to go on the agenda. It makes no sense to penalize a small group of people that use the lake over the three proposed items; banning trailers, combustion engines and the vessel be free of aquatic vegetation. If you refer to the provided links this is all covered by law already, and in reference to combustion engines they flush themselves as soon as they are out of the water.

" Additionally, under the law

- Boaters must inspect their vessel for vegetation and aquatic nuisance species and properly remove and dispose of all vegetation and nuisance species before transporting the vessel. You can be fined \$95 per violation(CGA 15-180) and Public Act 12-167."

As a resident I have used this lake longer than I can almost remember. I have raised my kids here, I've taught them how to swim and fish here, how to paddle a canoe and a kayak. I've even taught them about the weeds and how it is important to not transport them. Over the years I have fished from shore, canoe and kayak. I was lucky enough occasionally to join a friend or neighbor on their boats and learn more about the lake than most will ever know. Just this past year my dream became a reality as I finally had a the opportunity to purchase my own boat. Ninety percent of the time I never use the combustion engine. If I do its to motor to a favorite spot at no more than the posted speed limit of six miles an hour or to slowly troll for the ever elusive Walter. Cedar Lake may not be where I go all the time, but it is my place of Zen, while other lakes can get over run with speed boats and jet skis, there is none of that here. I can come home late in the evening and in five minutes I can get a quick trip on the water in before the sunsets.

Since I have purchase my boat, in 2019, two new "taxes" have been put on it. For the life of me I can't remember the first one, but the second is for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Stamp. Which is a new regulation to help with the mediation of aquatic invasive species.

I would also like to point out another group that will be hurt by this and that is the newly established Valley crew team. Yes the crew boats do not use combustibile engines, but how do they get there? On trailers of course. And don't forget the coaches, their boats do have combustibile engines. There are not many other options for them to have a home lake.

Also comparing Cedar lake to Coventry is like comparing a house cat to a lion, they are two extremely different bodies of water. Coventry is roughly 550 percent larger than Cedar, with a much greater population (don't forget green lawns equal nitrates feeding the lake weeds) that comes with their own boats and a much larger (450 percent) and more developed boat launch. Boats, jet skis, pontoons and cabin cruisers can enjoy speeds of 40 mph. That is a far cry from a calm 6 mph at Cedar Lake.

I just feel that the facts provided are very one sided and there needs to be much more discussion on the facts and options before such drastic measures may be considered. This will not only hurt residents of the town of Chester but many residents that come to Chester to use the lake as well.

Aquatic Invasive Species-Clean, Drain, Dry:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>

AIS Stamp:

<https://portal.ct.gov/DMV/Watercraft/Watercraft/Aquatic-Fee>

One last question, is the meeting scheduled for September 23 a public meeting? In person, online?

Sincerely,

Alexander Maxwell V

## First Selectman

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**From:** Sandy Prisloe <sprisloe@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 8, 2020 7:56 AM  
**To:** First Selectman  
**Cc:** Tom Brelsford; Richard Holloway; Ted Taigen; Margaret Wilson; Lisa Wahle; Margot Burns  
**Subject:** CLWC Proposal to amend ordinance on use of Cedar Lake

Hi Lauren,

The Conservation Commission was briefed by Tom Brelsford, Cedar Lake Watershed Commission, about the CLWC's proposal to amend the town ordinance governing the use of Cedar Lake to prohibit the use of boats with internal combustion engines or mechanical propulsion systems and the use of boat trailers to launch vessels. The CC recognizes the threat of invasive aquatic plants to the health and long term use of the lake and supports this proposal.

We are particularly concerned with hydrilla and water chestnut; two invasive aquatic plants that are now found in the CT River and lower Chester Creek. Boats, outboard engines and trailers used in these areas could transport viable plant fragments to Cedar Lake and seed an infestation there. Once established, hydrilla and/or water chestnut would add to the existing aquatic weed problem and could drastically and negatively impact the lake.

The CC urges the BoS to support this proposal.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandy Prisloe, Chairman  
Chester Conservation Commission

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



funding issues. Treatment this year also was expanded to include the area around the boat ramp, while the island cove areas were more focused in and around the known beds instead of treating the entire cove as was the case in 2016. Overall, the partial treatment approach has seen some marginal success but in conjunction with various logistical circumstances has yielded less than desirable results.

The less than optimal results of the current program along with the continued discovery of additional areas of Hydrilla growth in new areas of the lake, including beds at greater depth than first expected, suggests that an alternative is necessary. The most logical alternative would be treatment with the systemic herbicide, Sonar (fluridone). Given the varied locations and depths where the Hydrilla is being found and the realization that there are likely more areas either yet to be found or are too small to be readily observed, a whole lake treatment is likely to be the most efficacious approach moving forward.

### **Benthic Barriers**

When the August 9, 2017 survey revealed several small Hydrilla beds scattered in varying places around the lake, benthic barriers seemed like the most feasible option to tackle the small isolated patches. It was unrealistic to conduct spot treatments because there would be so much dilution of the herbicide in these areas.

In general, the benthic barriers, which were constructed from black felt with or without a steel rebar/PVC frame, worked very well to cover the small patches of Hydrilla. However, the Hydrilla bed outside island cove turned out to be very large. Despite two days of diving and many benthic barrier panels, this large untreated patch was not entirely covered. The majority of the bed was carefully covered with barrier, but there are large boulders (and a few large household items) that made the whole bed extremely difficult to cover. Again, given the higher cost and challenges of using this approach, along with the likelihood of finding more areas of Hydrilla growth, a whole-lake treatment option should be considered.

### **Recommendations for Future Management**

- COVENTRY LAKE

Feb  
2018

In 2015, only two small patches of Hydrilla were found in the lake. In 2016, three small patches were found. In 2017, Hydrilla was found in two totally new areas of the lake while additional patches near old beds. Large deeper water beds – 6-10 feet were observed rapidly increasing in season as the 2017 season progressed. There are now three very large beds of Hydrilla (boat ramp cove and outer island area, outlet cove), and there are smaller patches spread out over nine general areas of the lake. Furthermore, Hydrilla plants in the three large beds grow rapidly with shoots that nearly made it to surface during the 2017 season.

Given this expansion and concerns with the current approach, whole lake treatment with fluridone should be considered. Although more costly than the current approach, whole lake treatment will provide excellent, lake-wide biomass reduction and thus eliminate the reliance on locating and treating specific areas of Hydrilla growth. In fact, if started at the optimal time (June), there should not be any appreciable Hydrilla biomass in the lake at any point in the season.

Whole-lake fluridone treatments have a proven track record of success and have been used to manage many Hydrilla infestations in the New England region. Fluridone works by inhibiting carotenes, pigments in plants that help protect chlorophyll, from being degraded by sunlight. Without carotenes, chlorophyll degrades and is not able to be used by the plants to make food. Fluridone works slowly and often takes 60-90 days at the target concentration to provide desirable control of Hydrilla. Coventry Lake has a relatively slow flushing rate, which helps to maintain an effective concentration, however several applications over the course of the season will still be required.

While the treatment will be designed to maintain a suitable, whole-lake concentration, the herbicide will be applied in pellet formulations only to the littoral area of the lake. As the herbicide releases from the pellets and prior to mixing with the lake volume, it will be present at a higher concentration directly in the areas of Hydrilla growth and at the base of the plants, which will help to intensify plant uptake and ultimately increase the effectiveness of the treatment. Treatments should also be started so fluridone is present in the water at the onset of active Hydrilla growth, when the plants are most susceptible to the herbicide. This is likely to occur in mid to late June at Coventry Lake.

Given the presence of Hydrilla tubers and their known resistance to fluridone, despite its systemic properties, multiple years of fluridone treatment are likely to be required in order to deplete the tuber bank in the lake. As our knowledge of the true size of the Hydrilla infestation in Coventry Lake increases, partial lake treatments using endothal will continue to increase in cost and become less likely to achieve the long term goals of the program.

In terms of survey work, a minimum of two full littoral zone surveys (early season & late season) should be performed to monitor for any new areas of growth. Other more focused surveys should be provided for and implemented as needed, including more frequent, specific pre & post management inspections of the existing Hydrilla beds.

It is imperative that the CT DEEP establish a semi-permanent boat ramp monitor at the Coventry Lake state boat launch. With no exceptions, Hydrilla fragments were found along the shore of the boat launch on every visit in 2017. If there is no one inspecting boats and fishing gear leaving the lake it is almost certain that Hydrilla will be carried to other places in the state. It is possible for the State to cooperate with the Town of Coventry, the local Coventry Lake Associations, and the CT Federation of Lakes to organize volunteers and/or fund an Invasive Investigator for the foreseeable boating seasons.



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## Coventry Lake treated again for hydrilla

LISA MASSICOTTE

Chronicle Staff Writer

COVENTRY — Herbicide treatments for the aggressive and invasive hydrilla plant have begun once again for Coventry Lake.

Coventry Lake swimmers will need to find another way to beat the heat today, as the lake is closed to swimming all day due to the first hydrilla treatment for the summer season.

Hydrilla was first detected in Coventry Lake in September 2015 and, if left untreated, hydrilla could quickly choke out the life within the lake's ecosystem, according to the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

To effectively combat this invasive, non-native plant, the lake has been undergoing applications of a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and DEEP-registered chemical herbicide, called SonarOne, made by the company SePRO.

"The treatment is showing great success with very few colonies of hydrilla still flourishing," Coventry Town Manager John Elsesser said.

"We await the results after this season and inspections next spring but we are hopeful we will be able to modify our approach to more conservative means.

"We remind the public to not swim (today), primarily to avoid being in the way of the treatment vessel. We also urge all boaters to take great care to make sure their boats are clean both before and after launching," Elsesser wrote in an email.

SonarOne is expected to be applied to about 180 acres of the lake's shallow areas and shoreline by the state-licensed firm SOLitude Lake Management of Shrewsbury, Mass.

The herbicide product is designed to release concentrations of fluridone into the water column, according to SOLitude Environmental Engineer Dominic Meringolo.

"It's designed to kill the hydrilla without affecting any of the other good plants in the lake," Meringolo said Monday.

Fluridone works by interfering with hydrilla's photosynthesis process, or its ability to convert sunlight and carbon dioxide into a food source.

It is not harmful to humans or animals.

This is the third year the town is funding this type of treatment, according to Meringolo.

"It goes to show you how persistent hydrilla can be. We have to treat it for a number of years to control it," he said.

Hydrilla is difficult to treat because of how it grows.

The plant reproduces by seed but also by fragmentation, meaning any part of the plant that breaks off has the potential to grow into a new plant.

Hydrilla can form dense thick mats in the water and reduce the dissolved oxygen content in lakes, which kills native plants and wildlife.

Additionally, a part of hydrilla, known as "tubers," can lay dormant within the mud of the lake for a number of years before sprouting into a new plant, according to Meringolo.

To access and destroy these "tubers," this year the town removed benthic barriers in the lake that were initially installed to help control the growth of hydrilla.

"We have removed all benthic barriers initially installed to assure treatment of those areas, too," Elsesser said.

Now that much of the hydrilla has been destroyed, the decision was made to take out the benthic barriers to give access to any parts of the hydrilla that may have been dormant and unable to grow.

After today's first round of treatments, there will be two follow-up treatments about one month apart, one in late August and another in late September.

Follow-up treatments take less application time and the lake does not necessarily need to be closed off for swimming the entire day, Meringolo said.

Treatments for the season cost around \$120,100 total and are sourced primarily through town funds, raised through taxes, from funding designated to lake management.

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For the 2020-21 town budget, there is \$90,000 in the lake management fund along with another \$7,500 for hydrilla management from prior capital, according to the town budget document.

Additionally, the town is going after a \$25,000 lake management grant.

"We are working with CT DEEP on the grant which is tied to federal funding. We have been assured some funds but they need to be tied to state and federal schedules and purchasing rules," Elsesser said in an email.

Follow Lisa Massicotte on Twitter - @LMassicotteTC.

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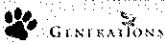

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