



TOWN OF EXETER, RI

TOWN COUNCIL

Diane Bampton Allen, President
Raymond A. Morrissey, Jr., Vice President
Calvin A. Ellis
Jamie S. Schiffer
Joseph M. Turner

675 Ten Rod Road
Exeter, R.I. 02822
Ph: (401) 294-3891
Fax: (401) 295-1248
clerk@exeterri.gov

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
TOWN OF EXETER**

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-13

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INTERSTATE ENFORCEMENT OF BOATING
LAWS ON BEACH POND AND IMPROVED PUBLIC SAFETY**

WHEREAS: Beach Pond is a shared body of water located along the border of the State of Rhode Island and the State of Connecticut and is heavily used for recreational boating, fishing, and other water-based activities; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Exeter recognizes that Beach Pond presents unique public safety challenges due to its interstate nature, including inconsistent enforcement of boating laws and limitations on law enforcement authority across state boundaries; and

WHEREAS: The Connecticut General Assembly has enacted Public Act No. 24-123 (House Bill No. 5350), which provides for reciprocal enforcement of boating and fish and game laws on bodies of water bordering Connecticut, including shared waters such as Beach Pond; and

WHEREAS: This legislation allows authorized officers from neighboring states to enforce applicable laws across jurisdictional lines when reciprocal authority is established, thereby enhancing coordination and closing enforcement gaps; and

WHEREAS: Beach Pond has experienced ongoing safety concerns, including reckless boating, impaired operation, and delays in enforcement response due to jurisdictional uncertainty; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Exeter believes that improved interstate cooperation and enforcement authority are essential to ensuring the safety of residents, visitors, and first responders on Beach Pond;

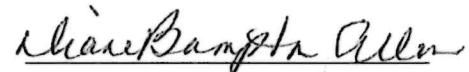
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Town of Exeter hereby expresses its strong support for Connecticut Public Act No. 24-123 and its intent to improve safety and enforcement on shared waterways; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town of Exeter respectfully urges the State of Rhode Island to adopt reciprocal legislation or enter into agreements with the State of Connecticut to provide equivalent enforcement authority for Rhode Island law enforcement officers on shared waters, including Beach Pond; and

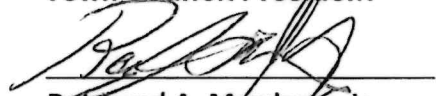
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Town calls upon Rhode Island's General Assembly, the Department of Environmental Management, and other relevant agencies to prioritize legislation, policy changes, or interstate agreements that enhance boating safety and enforcement coordination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Rhode Island, members of the Rhode Island General Assembly, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, the Connecticut General Assembly, and neighboring municipalities for their awareness and support.

Approved by vote of the Exeter Town Council on this 4TH day of May, 2026.



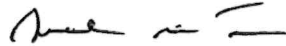
Diane Bampton Allen
Town Council President



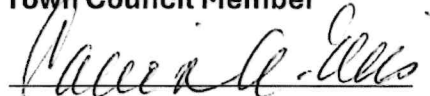
Raymond A. Morrissey, Jr.
Town Council Vice President



Jamie S. Schiffer
Town Council Member



Joseph M. Turner
Town Council Member



Calvin A. Ellis
Town Council Member

IN WITNESS HEREOF, I hereby set my hand and the Official Seal of the Town of Exeter this 4th day of May, 2026.



Lynn M. Hawkins, CMC
Exeter Town Clerk