

LAKE LURE MARINE COMMISSION
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION
Meeting Date: July 13, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution No. 21-07-13 Amending the Lake Use Regulations

AGENDA INFORMATION:

Agenda Location: Public Hearing/Unfinished Business
Item Number: A/A
Department: Parks, Recreation, and Lake Operations
Contact: Dean Givens, Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director
Presenter: Dean Givens, Parks, Recreation, and Lake Director

BRIEF SUMMARY: The Lake Advisory Board recommended a 200' buffer around the Lake in which all ballast boats must stay outside of. This will be difficult to enforce without adding additional buoys to mark this 200' buffer area around the Lake. However, adding additional buoys could create problems as well. Therefore, staff feels that more time is needed for research on this matter before making a decision.

PROPOSED MOTION AND REQUESTED ACTIONS: To adopt Resolution No. 21-07-13, excluding the section regarding the 200' buffer, adopt the wake responsibly guidelines set forth by the NC Wildlife Resources Commission to be followed on Lake Lure starting in 2022, and to approve staff to develop an educational program for all boaters on Lake Lure.

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution No. 21-07-13, NC Wildlife Wake Guidelines

STAFF'S COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Staff recommends Town Council allow more time for research on the type of ballast boats and wake surfing before making a decision on how to move forward. We feel more time is needed to research the effects of implementing a 200 foot buffer, determine how this would be enforced, and research possible effects of invasive species that could be introduced from ballast boats.

The NC Wildlife Resource Commission has wake guidelines for boats that could increase lake safety and help protect the lake shores. Staff recommends adopting these guidelines for 2022.

<https://www.ncwildlife.org/Boating/Wake-Responsibly>

Having staff develop an education program for boaters could be beneficial as well. This could be done in a variety of ways, including informational pamphlets, boating classes, online videos, warnings, citations, and requiring permit holders to read and sign a copy of the Lake Lure rules and regulations. Having those applying for a permit read and sign a copy of the Lake Lure rules and regulations may reduce some of the issues on the Lake and will ensure that every permit holder has read the current rules and regulations. Staff recommends beginning to develop an educational program.