

To: TOSL Board of Supervisors

From: Bill Amery, Town Supervisor

Date: September 9, 2026

Subj: Results of Community Response Program for Boating Ordinances

This is a summary of the first set of responses received on boating ordinance issues. Since this is new for us, I wanted to revisit some of the basics of this effort and why we are doing it. First, this is a way for members of the community to respond when they believe there is an ordinance issue. Hopefully, this is more effective than the "community policing" model we have used in the past, which is mostly about standing on a dock and yelling, or attempting to flag someone down on the lake. Second, this program is set up to assist the Board in understanding the location, time and events that may constitute an ordinance infraction. It is intended as an information gathering tool and is not designed to accuse or punish anyone. We are keeping all the data confidential in order to avoid this being used to apply penalties.

In my opinion, the success of this program will depend on good judgment and care in the use of these reports. We have some naysayers that have used this program with emails that express doubt in our abilities to handle this information. I disagree, and I am confident we can process the reports and findings in a way that is useful, productive and accomplishes the many goals and duties we have as Board members. To that end, there are a couple of things that we need to keep in mind. They revolve around accountability and decision making.

Our Town Board is expected to make good decisions. In a perfect world, we would have all the information needed to make these decisions. This almost never happens. Most organizations, especially those that make complex decisions like town governments, find they must work with limited or sketchy data. There is never enough to guarantee the right course of action. That said, the only thing worse than having poor quality data is having no data at all. This is the rationale for collecting community input on our boating ordinances. We know the reports are not perfect, but they can be useful in augmenting our efforts at finding the right balance of governance and leadership in managing the health, safety and recreational opportunities within our community.

As elected officials we are accountable to the community to perform our duties effectively. We promise to do our best when taking an oath as we are sworn in, and this oath includes our duty to implement and administer Town ordinances (laws). Part of this duty is to ensure that ordinances are both designed to be **enforceable**, and that they are properly **enforced**. The boating ordinance reports you will review are mostly about improving enforceability, and have very little to do with actual enforcement. For example, we are not using these reports to hand out citations and fines. We are not imposing penalties in any way. And, we are keeping all identifying information confidential. Our goal with this program is to help us identify problem areas and use these findings to improve

communication and education for users of the Town lakes. Further, as regards enforcing the Town ordinances, we may use the reports to help us understand if, when and how more active enforcement is needed. If the reports prove to be useful in this way, it will improve the effectiveness and efficiency with which we employ more active enforcement. We will target our efforts and thereby avoid the heavy-handed enforcement some of our community members are concerned about.

All this involves good judgment. Using limited information to support effective leadership is the hallmark of an effective board. It is the job we signed up for, and a duty we took an oath to protect. A summary of reports is attached. I will provide more detail at the meeting. I look forward to our discussion.

TOSL Community Response Program for Boating Ordinances

Summary of Reports through 9/8/2026

Date	Time	Location	Description	Notes
Saturday, July 18, 2026	NA	Big Spider	Appears to be wake boat that is pulling wakeboarder	Not clear if this was wakeboarding, which is OK, or if it is wake surfing, which is contrary to the ordinance
Monday, August 3, 2026	5:30 PM	Picnic Island, Big Spider	Boat pulling kids tubing. After salutation, boat continued tubing at a speed under 10mph	Operator said they were renters and where unaware of ordinance
Monday, August 3, 2026	5:30 PM	Big Spider	Boat pulling tube, ignored salutation and eventually pulled into shore	
Monday, August 17, 2026	4:50 PM	East Bay, Big Spider	There's a jet ski with 3 people in East Bay of Big Spider Lake at 4:50 pm on Monday, August 17.	did not specify speed -- under 10mph would be OK
Sunday, August 23, 2026	7:00 PM	Little Spider	Fishing boat coming from the Heinemann Bay area heading north at full speed to some location north of Brewer's Bay at the north end of Little Spider.	
Tuesday, August 25, 2026	9:14 AM	Little Spider	Large pontoon/barge speeding at 20+mph, Heinemann Bay to the north end of Little Spider.	Commercial vessel with equipment for moving docks and boat lifts
Tuesday, August 25, 2026	10:30 AM	Little Spider	Boat coming from north end of Little Spider heading south and into Heinemann Bay	Commercial vessel with equipment for moving docks and boat lifts
Thursday, August 27, 2026	9:30 AM	Little Spider	Two boats operating at high speed between Clear Lake and Shores Acres bieach on south end of Little Spider	appear to be DNR employees
Thursday, September 3, 2026	10:24 AM	East Bay, Big Spider	large pontoon/barge speeding at 20+mph	Commercial vessel with equipment for moving docks and boat lifts
Thursday, September 3, 2026	morning	Teal Lake	Fishing boat exiting mouth of Teal Lake at high rate of speed	headed directly at three kayaks before it slowed down immediately next to them, to do some casting
Friday, September 4, 2026	6:40 PM	East Bay, Big Spider	Fishing boat exceeding 10mph	big outboard running at wide open throttle
Sunday, September 6, 2026	10:25 AM	East Bay, Big Spider	Tubing on East Bay of Big Spider before 11 am.	
Sunday, September 6, 2026	10:25 AM	East Bay, Big Spider	Jet skiing before 11am. Coming from far end of East Bay of Big Spider Lake.	