

TOWN BEACH REGULATIONS

Pursuant to the powers vested in the Select Board acting as Park Commissioners by Section 5 of Chapter 45 of the General Laws, Chapter 73 of the Acts of 1943, and all other statutes relating thereto, the following rules are established in reference to the public beaches of Lake Massapoag.

The Town beaches are the Community Center Beach (on Community Center Drive adjacent to the Community Center) and Veterans' Memorial Park Beach (on Beach Street.) Veterans' Memorial Park Beach shall be open only to Sharon residents and their guests. The Community Center Beach shall be open to the general public. Admission to either beach during the official beach season shall be only by permit issued by the Recreation Department, except in the case of children under the age of two.

ADMISSION: shall be available upon payment of fees recommended by the Sharon Recreation Department. Fees will be determined annually and any fee increases will be discussed at a publicly advertised Open Meeting of the Sharon Select Board.

The official beach season shall be recommended by the Recreation Department and publicly advertised each year.

YOUTH: Under the age of **14 years** require adult supervision.

FOOD/BEVERAGES: Consuming of food or beverages shall be permitted only in areas designated for such purposes by the Recreation Department.

Glass containers are not permitted.

Grilling will only be permitted in a designated area.

No person shall have in their possession or drink any intoxicating liquor or beverage, or participate in any gambling or perform any obscene or indecent act, at either Town beach.

SMOKING: Smoking is not permitted on Town property. This includes and is not limited to vaping, use of hookah and other devises.

LITTER: All refuse is to be discarded in containers provided or removed from the beach.

Persons shall not dig up, cut, break, remove, deface, or ill use any building, fence structure, sign, bush, plant, turf, rock, or any other thing located at either Town beach.

Holes dug in the sand must be refilled before digger departs.

The use of soap or detergents in the waters adjacent to the Town beaches is prohibited.

SWIMMING: All Bathers must stay within marked swimming area. No swimming in from a watercraft that is outside the beach's swim rope lines. No swimming under or behind docks.

A person must wear proper bathing attire as determined by the Waterfront Director when using the waters of Lake Massapoag from the beach areas which are owned by the Town.

No person, other than infants, shall dress or undress at either Town beach, except in a building provided for the purpose by the Recreation Department.

Lap Swim: Those who swim at the buoy line must tow a small buoy for visibility to others.

INFLATABLES are NOT allowed at any time on the beach . This includes the use of tubes, rafts, water wings or other floating support.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs) for summer camps and programs use must be US Coast Guard Types I, II and III are allowed for children under 12 years, disabled persons, or anyone qualifying under Christian's Law MGL c. 111, §127A½. Must not be inflatable; Hybrids acceptable. Must fit appropriately.

All PFDs MUST be used in designated swimming areas, and MUST be accompanied by an adult.

NO other devices such as throwable floatation devices, kickboards, snorkels, masks, fins (except for training purposes) or diving tanks, etc can be used.

ANIMALS: feeding of Gulls, Geese, Ducks, water animals or wildlife is strictly forbidden.

Dogs are not permitted on the beach and walkways from April 15th through October 15th.

FISHING: is not allowed at any time from the docks or shoreline.

TRANSPORTATION: Vehicles must be parked in the approved parking space and display current parking pass. BICYCLES must be placed in the bicycle rack provided.

SOLICITING: No person may conduct any business or commercial calling, trade, sell or otherwise deal commodities or merchandise of any description; or solicit patronage of any sort; or advertise any such business or calling for the sale of such commodities or merchandise; or hold any public meeting. No person may solicit contributions, signatures, or any other means or support for any purpose or cause.

Persons shall not, at either Town beach, post, paint, or affix any sign, notice, or advertising device except with the written permission of the Recreation Director, nor engage in any business, sell, expose for sale or give away any goods, circulars, or wares except with the written permission of the Select Board.

VIOLATIONS: All persons using Town beaches shall obey promptly the directions of the Recreation Department staff members.

Whoever violates any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of \$50 for the first violation; \$100 for the second violation; and \$300 for any violation thereafter.

Boating Bylaws

Definitions: As used in this bylaw the following items have the following meanings:

Personal Watercraft – A vessel usually less than 24 feet in length (measured from end to end over the deck excluding shear) which uses an inboard, internal combustion engine powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion. The vessel is intended to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing or kneeling rather within the confines of the hull. Vessels commonly referred to as jet ski, wave runner, wave jammer, wetjet, ski-doo, wet bike and surf jet are not permitted on Lake Massapoag except by public safety departments with a primary purpose as approved by the Select Board.

Waterskiing- for the purpose of this bylaw, shall include towing or manipulating a surfboard, inner-tube or other similar watersport device towed or riding the wake behind the motor vessel. Waterskiers must have at least two people in the boat one driving the other observing.

Vessel- includes all types of watercraft including non-displacement craft and capable of being used as a means of transportation on water.

Hydrofoil- a motorized vessel designed to lift the vessel above the water surface as it gains speed.

General Regulations:

Applicability. The Sharon Boating Bylaws are written under the authority of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90B, Section 15. The bylaw is intended to promote the protection of public safety and welfare by encouraging voluntary compliance, and by deterring non-compliance through penalties and fines. This bylaw shall apply to all persons, vessels or objects on or using Lake Massapoag.

Operation near swimming areas: No motor boat or vessel shall be operated within 150 feet of any swimming area designated by the Select Board and marked buoys.

No racing-type motor boats or vessels, i.e. hydroplanes, hydrofoils or jet skis shall be operated at anytime within the Town of Sharon.

BOATING REGULATIONS

Section I	No person shall operate any vessel on Lake Massapoag at a speed in excess of fifteen (15) miles per hour, except that a maximum speed of thirty (30) miles per hour shall be permitted only during such times and in such areas as shall be designated for water skiing by the Sharon Select Board, provided that when within 150 feet of the shore or any pier or float the speed shall not exceed six (6) miles per hour.
Section II	No person shall operate any vessel within 150 feet of the shore of any public or private bathing beach on Lake Massapoag except in case of an emergency or within the public launching area.
Section III	Except in case of an emergency, every person, other than the owner or tenant of beach frontage on Lake Massapoag or a guest of either one, shall launch or land his vessel at the public boat slip and from or on no other place. An owner or tenant of beach frontage or a guest of either may launch and land his boat from and on such beach.
Section IV	No person shall operate a vessel on Lake Massapoag powered by internal combustion engines whose total horsepower rating at time of original manufacture exceeds sixty (60) horsepower, except as approved by the Select Board for safety or rescue purposes.
Section V	No person shall launch a boat powered by an internal combustion engine at a public launching area on Lake Massapoag unless there is permanently attached to a boat launching permit sticker. Such stickers shall be available to residents and non-residents at reasonable rates to be established by the Select Board.
Section VI	No person shall fuel or refuel, oil, or service any power boat, motor boat, or other motorized water craft in any public park or other public land that is within one thousand (1,000) feet of the shoreline of Lake Massapoag.
Section VII	Waterskiing tow lines shall not exceed 75 feet in length and only one skier may be towed per boat.

Prohibited Use: All other activities above are prohibited, such as jet propelled watercraft **(Conservation Commission Provision #27, Section 2)** Exceptions are granted to police, fire and rescue. Whoever violates any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of up to \$250.

Regulations for Personal Motorized Watercraft

Section I	<p>No person shall operate a "personal watercraft"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) within one hundred and fifty (150) feet of a swimmer, shore or moored vessel, except at headway speed;(b) without wearing an approved personal flotation device; or(c) between sunset and sunrise. <p>For purposes of this section, the term "headway speed" shall mean the slowest speed at which personal watercraft can be operated and maintain steerage way.</p> <p>Minimum Age Requirements. No person shall operate a personal watercraft if such person is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) under the age of sixteen (16);(b) sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) years of age without first having received a safety certificate evidencing satisfactory completion of a training course in a safe operation conducted by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary, the United States Power Squadron, the Division of Law Enforcement, or such other entity approved in writing by the Director.
Section II	Personal Motorized Watercrafts must have decals visible that display horsepower and boat registration.

Regulations for Personal Non-Motorized Watercraft

Section I	Permitted personal non-motorized watercraft is defined by kayaks, paddleboards, row boats, wind surfers and canoes.
Section II	Anyone operating personal non-motorized watercraft must bring with them: a distress whistle and appropriately fitted US Coast Guard approved I,II, or III PFD
Section III	Youth who are between 12 and 15 years of age must complete an approved basic boating course in order to operate a personal watercraft without adult supervision. Youth under 12 years old must be accompanied by an adult at all times. For individuals ages 16 and up, the regulations for motorized watercrafts apply.

Updated Select Board Approved March 9th

**Re-written December 17, 2021
Approved AGO September 7, 2022**