



2021

**LAKE MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMISSION  
AGENDA/Zoom /HYBRID MEETING  
Adella G. Urban Conference Room  
Wednesday June 3, 2026 @ 7:00 PM**

Topic: LMAC Meeting

Time: Jun 3, 2026 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

**Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83457121434>**

**Meeting ID: 834 5712 1434**

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1. Call To Order
2. Minutes Of Last Meeting: 5/16/26 with attachments;
3. Communications
  - a. Sake of the Lake Program Roll Out Update
  - b. Town of Columbia Emergency Management Plan & Early Detection & Rapid Response (EDRR) Integration
  - c. UCONN PhD Study Project Field Work ~ Ellie Loew-Mendelson
  - d. Coventry LID Group Workshop Presentations ~ 'Using Plants to Protect Our Lake'
  - e. Columbia Lake Antique Boat Show ~ June 6<sup>th</sup>; Rain Date: June 7<sup>th</sup>
  - f. Other LMAC Member Communications
4. Guests
5. Audience of Citizens

**Lake Management Advisory Commission  
 Agenda/Zoom /Hybrid Meeting  
 Wednesday June 3, 2026 @ 7:00 PM  
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- 6. Unfinished Business
  - a. Claspig Pondweed Pilot Program Goals & Future Changes Updates
  - b. Marine Patrol ~ 2026 Roles & Objectives
  
- 7. New Business
  - a. Refilling the Lake ~ Short-Term & Long-Term Issues
    - i. 2025 – 2026 Lake Refill Information
  - b. Identifying/Prioritizing LMAC Initiatives ~ SWOT Analysis
  
- 8. Standing Committees, Special Projects, Liaison Communications

<i><b>Standing Committees</b></i>	<i><b>Special Projects</b></i>	<i><b>Liaison Communications</b></i>
Permit Reviews – Mike, Jim • 206 Route 87	Early Detection Rapid Response - Frank	TRC/Town Updates - Mary
Geese & Weed Patrols – Greg, Mike	Watershed Mgt Plan Revisions - Muffy	Conservation & Open Space - Ann
Boating Safety, Regs & M Patrol – Bob & Jeff		Wetlands - Mary
Watershed & Stormwater – Ann & Jim		Planning & Zoning – Bob
		Dam Gatekeepers – Mary, Mike
		Budget Updates - Frank

- 9. Audience of Citizens
  
- 10. Adjournment

*This is a web-based call, so we are operating under the following procedures: This session is being both video and audio-recorded. Commissioners and staff will generally remain on mute except when speaking or voting and will generally be keeping video of themselves on throughout the meeting. If a member of the public creates an audio or video disruption, they may be manually ejected from the meeting upon recommendation of staff or the chair.*

**Lake Management Advisory Commission**  
**May 6, 2026 / Hybrid/Zoom**  
**Minutes of the Meeting**  
**Town Hall Conference Room**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.  
**Members Present:** Mary Roickle, Henry Beck, Martha Carter, Mike Scalise, Ann Dunnack, Frank Gifford, Greg Stryker, Jeff Morrison, Robert Powell  
**Also Attending:** Mark Walter, Town Administrator; Sally Robinson, 26 Lake Road, Eric Sodergren, 166 Route 87  
**Absent:** Phyllis Dunn, James Santos

**Minutes:** There were motions to revise the agenda to review, edit and approve the March 4, 2026 LMAC minutes as edited by Muffy Carter. In addition, the April 1, 2026 LMAC minutes and April 20, 2026, Special Meeting minutes were revised with minor edits by Muffy Carter and Henry Beck and approved. As suggested by Henry Beck all Chairperson Meeting Preparation emails sent prior to LMAC meetings were added to the March 4<sup>th</sup>, April 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> minutes submitted to the town. Motions passed to approve all minutes reviewed. 9 For; 1 Abstention

**Communications:**

- a) **TRC & Wilcox & Barton Proposals** - An interim 'win/win' solution was worked out to include both TRC and Wilcox & Barton (W&B) as lake consultants through the town's June 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year. W&B will be subcontracted by TRC so Carl Nielsen - now at W&B - can continue work on the Watershed Management Plan update project. The resignation of Carl Nielsen from TRC had no noncompete issues. James Treacy, TRC's field monitor for the lake will conduct the May and June 2026 water quality assessment field visits. In addition, moving forward in the town's 2026 to 2027 fiscal year the Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved that W&B will be the lake consultant. There was a review of two proposals – TRC & W&B. W&B won the bid. Prior to the BOS decision, Rich Roberts of Halloran & Sage reviewed the interim and long terms solutions approving both. Muffy Carter pointed out the outstanding work that Carl has done with the WMP subcommittee, and the value of his being retained as our lake consultant. She also recommended that all Columbia Lake data on TRC's SharePoint be downloaded and archived by the town. This task was completed by Mary Roickle and Jennifer LaVoie in April.
- b) **Dam Spillway Update** – The dam spillway was inspected by two engineering firms – WMC and Barton & Loguidice - both confirming the spillway leak has created voids under the spillway. Mark Walter shared that there is a two-phase approach to repairing the spillway. Phase 1 is a \$260,000 solution to fix the spillway leak area and fill the voids created. The BOS approved a bid design at a \$21,000 cost pending a May 19<sup>th</sup> Town Meeting approval to proceed with Phase 1. Pending the selection of the firm and DEEP approvals the desire is to repair the spillway after this Fall's drawdown. Phase 1's results will be evaluated every two years starting with a 2027 inspection. If it does not resolve the leak Phase 2 will be initiated which is a total rebuild of the spillway. The estimated cost would be \$2.5 million.

c) **Dam Spillway Update (continued)**

Further discussion focused on reviewing the town's historical data to create a record of when the dam was built and when repairs were made. Greg Stryker and Frank Gifford offered their assistance to support Mark Walter and review these files.

d) **Bill Lythe Letter of Resident Request:** Bob Powell made a motion to accept the Bill Lythe letter allowing his son to dock his motorboat at their dock which has been their practice for several years. Muffy Carter seconded. Upon discussion it was noted that the letter as written does not indicate the family member is in residence for a continuous 30-day period, as required by the 2025 Town Ordinance. Henry Beck proposed a friendly amendment to accept the letter provided they revise it to include that their son intends to reside at their lake property for that period of time or that the motorboat be co-registered with Mr. Lythe. Motion passed 9 For; 1 Opposed.

e) **CT Agricultural Environmental Station (CAES) AIS & Coventry Low Impact Development (LID) Workshops:** Two workshops related to improving water quality will be conducted on the morning of May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Connecticut Federation of Lakes (CFL) is sponsoring the CAES workshop on Aquatic Invasive Species to be held in Ledyard, CT. The Coventry Lake LID group is sponsoring a workshop on using plants to protect lake water. Members were encouraged to attend either workshop if available.

f) **CT DEEP Draft Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study & CFL Response:** Muffy Carter shared that DEEP provided a draft of their Wake Boat & Wake Surf Study requesting additional feedback, research and data by April 30, 2026. The CFL responded with their feedback and also conducted an online meeting update of their response. The draft study and CFL response will be emailed to LMAC members for their review.

g) **Chairperson Meeting Preparation Notes:** Henry Beck suggested that preparation emails for LMAC meetings from Mary Roickle, Chairperson be added to the meeting minutes. Effective March 4, 2026 meeting all meeting prep emails were pasted in to each meeting's minutes.

**Guests & Audience of Citizens – None**

**Unfinished Business:**

a) **For the Sake of the Lake Outreach & Educational Rollout for Nonmotorized**

**Watercraft:** The For the Sake of the Lake materials are complete and the roll out is ready for May 15<sup>th</sup>. Jennifer LaVoie will add the materials to the Town Website Recreation Department with links for residents to access the program. The communications include:

- a. Columbia Views Article
- b. Town of Columbia May Monthly Article
- c. Town of Columbia Post Card to All Residents
- d. Columbia Lake Association Email
- e. LMAC Members Informal Discussions & Chats

b) **Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) Plan Review/Next Action Steps:** TRC

completed the EDRR Plan outline for Columbia Lake. It is a thorough document that requires

work to be specific to Columbia Lake. Next action steps focus on how to merge the EDRR Plan for the lake to line up with the town's EMP. Mark Walter is the liaison to merge the lake EDRR with the Emergency Response Plan (EMP). In both plans we need to streamline the who, what, when and where to contact in a simple format when an incident happens. An example is formalizing a telephone contact tree. Frank Gifford will take all comments and advise how to best move forward to manage the lake EDRR action steps and merge them with the town's EMP.

- c) **Spring 2026 Claspings Pondweed Removal Protocol – Pilot Program & Future Changes:** Savannah Kitchen, our Wetlands Agent will be updating the Spring 2026 Pilot Program Removal Protocol with some specific, measurable goals for each lakebed. Related to a Weed Patrol, Greg Stryker continues to pursue ideas to support folks who may want weeds removed and may not be capable. Mike Gnazzo has a snorkel for underwater use and a son who may be interested in assisting others in pulling the weeds. The Weed Patrol is also pursuing Boy Scout or Lions projects to assist in pulling. Mary Roickle did point out that pulling or cutting Claspings Pondweed is effective, yet temporary. The weeds will return in the fall and pulling them is an annual spring process.

**New Business:**

- a) **Marine Patrol Roles & Responsibilities:** A Marine Patrol (MP) Meeting was held the afternoon of May 6<sup>th</sup> with an emphasis on improving LMAC, Town Administrator, Recreation Department and MP communications related to the MP roles and responsibilities. The meeting included Mark Walter, Jake Plitt, Christina Han, Brain Auld, Bob Powell, Jeff Morrison and Mary Roickle. The outcomes of the MP meeting were shared with LMAC. They included:
- i. As ambassadors who must enforce safety on the lake the MP approach is to be collaborative, cooperative and to facilitate safe recreational use of the lake. Also, all MP interactions with town residents on the lake or at docks will be documented for record keeping and shared with the Recreation Director and Town Administrator.
  - ii. Defining minor versus major offenses on the lake and outlining a three-strike policy.
  - iii. For minor infractions the first warning would be verbal and educational; the second warning would be written and shared with Recreation Director for possible action; the third warning would be written and shared for Town Administrator's review and possible penalty with or without BOS input. The MP in their discussions will alert the person that there may be consequences with recurring penalties. LMAC recommended adding a statement on the Warning Form to alert the person there could be further consequences.
  - iv. For major infractions where there are glaring safety issues this is shared with the Recreation Director and Town Administrator for immediate action regardless of the 3-strike policy. In an emergency the State Police would be notified.
  - v. Defined the For the Sake of the Lake role to educate recreational users of the non-motorized educational and inspection program and to facilitate providing Sake of the Lake Stickers when town residents bring forward their test and pledge forms.

- vi. A penalty can be issued up to \$250. It was pointed out that the former \$50 penalty established in 1990 with inflation is now in the \$225 range. This amount is consistent with other penalties.
- vii. Utilizing technology such as MP email addresses and an iPad will help facilitate communications.

b) **Identifying/Prioritizing LMAC Initiatives:** Tabled until future meetings. Mary again asked that members be prepared to ‘brainstorm’ at a future meeting to share thoughts as to what are the priorities we should be focused on beyond the current initiatives. Frank Gifford suggested a starting place for this discussion would be to review the SWOT Analysis prepared for the BOS to review during the 2026 budget process.

### **Standing Committees, Special Projects, Liaison Communications**

a) **Permit Reviews:** Michael Scalise on behalf of the Permit Subcommittee presented a motion to deny the Eric & Tracy Sodergren application to install a floating dock with posts during the non-construction period of time on the lake with an alternative solution to reapply for installing the dock during the allowed construction period.

The motion reads: “I move that LMAC advise the BOS to reject the permit application from Eric and Tracy Sodergren dated 4/20/2026 to install a new Jet ski lift. Sodergren’s proposed 2 options to install the lift, option 1 is to auger into the lakebed for the supporting posts which would abut but not connect to their existing dock. Option 1 is common with other lifts that have been installed on Columbia Lake. Option 2 is to mount the lift to the side of the dock with hinged connectors. This would be a temporary installation until the 2026 drawdown when they would reinstall using option 1. Option 1. Though a common installation method we are in the no construction season.

Option 2. This method of installation is also in the no-construction season, and the installation instructions specify this to be installed on a floating dock. Furthermore, by attaching the lift to their stationary dock extends the size of the dock which is already oversized. The Sodergren’s can reapply for the installation using option 1 in the approved construction season after the 2026 drawdown. Second by Bob Powell.

The permit application was thoroughly reviewed and denied advising the BOS to deny for the following reasons:

- i. The guidelines state that all work will be accomplished after the Lake Drawdown beginning on November 1, 2025, and shall be completed prior to the lake re-filling on March 15, 2026. We are beyond that time.
- ii. Their preferred method is an installation that has been approved on Columbia Lake for similar floating lifts and docks only during the construction season of March 15 to October 15 in even numbered years and March 15 to November 1 in odd numbered years.
- iii. Permits have been approved during the no construction season only for emergency repairs, not for convenience sake.
- iv. Included with the Sodergren’s permit for option B are the manufacturer’s installation instructions. The instructions state that the lift be installed on a floating dock; the Sodergren’s dock is not a floating dock.

**Permit Review (continued)**

- v. Option B if approved and connected to their already non-conforming 8' x 24' dock will increase the size of their dock well beyond the 100 square feet allowed in the guidelines
- vi. Option B would set a precedent for others to attach floating structures to their docks including rafts, lifts and boathouses.
- vii. Being there has yet to be a site visit we are unsure of the site lines, footage on this 64' lake frontage as well as how many structures are on this property's lake front.
- viii. Historically, the BOS has not allowed and ordered the removal of structures placed on the lake during the no construction period. In 2024 a floating dock was placed on the lake during the no construction period. The dock was removed, the owner reapplied, and with an approved application the floating dock was placed during the winter construction time period.

The motion was approved to deny the permit application unanimously 10-0.

- a) **Geese & Weed Patrol:** Possible solutions were discussed in Unfinished Business. Greg Stryker and Michael Scalise will continue their efforts to identify solutions to assist in Claspig Pondweed removal. As to whether there is a liability issue with weed removal, the liability responsibility would be on the homeowner or anyone they hire or who volunteers to assist. We will recheck with Wetlands Agent.
- b) **Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Updates:** Muffy shared that the subcommittee has had two meetings with TRC's Carl Nielson who has outlined an approach to the WMP update with a goal to have a draft by June 30, 2026.
- c) **Dam Gatekeepers Update:** None
- d) **Armor Seawalls:** Muffy noted that armored seawalls have the potential to turn the lake into a swimming pool, and thought should be given to the impact of mortared seawalls on the lake.

A motion was made to adjourn with a second by all and the meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Roickle, Chairperson LMAC

**Chairperson Meeting Preparation Notes:**

LMAC May 6 Meeting Preparation Materials - EMail #1

**mroickle@aol.com**

**From:** mroickle@aol.com

**To:** Frank Gifford, Michael Scalise, Märtha Carter, Henry M. Beck, James Santos and 5 more...

**Cc:** Mark Walter, jlavoie@columbiact.gov

Thu, Apr 30 at 11:25 PM

Hi Frank, Michael, Muffy, Henry, Jim, Phyllis, Ann, Jeff, Bob & Greg,

Please find this as 1 of 2 emails in preparation for our May 6 LMAC Meeting. The attached materials focus on our April 1st meeting and requests received for the May Meeting. They are:

- May 6, 2026 Agenda
- March 4, 2026 LMAC Minutes Edited for Approval
- April 1, 2026 LMAC Minutes

## Lake Management Advisory Commission – May 6, 2026

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### Page 6

- Bill Lythe Letter
- Early Detection Rapid Response Plan
- SWOT & Risk Management Analysis for Identifying/Prioritizing LMAC Initiatives

Thanks for your preparation prior to the meeting so we can focus on discussions and actions to move our actions forward. As a reminder if you are unable to attend the meeting email or text me at least 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Kind regards, MaryR

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#### LMAC May 6 Meeting Preparation Materials - EMail #2

**mroickle@aol.com**

**From:** mroickle@aol.com

**To:** Frank Gifford, Märtha Carter, Henry M. Beck, Michael Scalise, Greg Stryker and 5 more...

**Cc:** Mark Walter, jlavoie@columbiact.gov

Thu, Apr 30 at 11:46 PM

Hi Again Frank, Michael, Muffy, Henry, Jim, Phyllis, Ann, Jeff, Bob & Greg,

This is EMail #2 for our May 6 LMAC Meeting preparation. The attached materials focus on our April 20th Special Meeting. They are:

- April 20, 2026 LMAC Special Meeting Minutes
- Final Versions of For the Sake of the Lake Introduction & Rollout Materials Approved by LMAC
- Rationale for Considering Wilcox & Barton 2026 - 2027 Proposal vs TRC Proposal (PPT)

Thanks for all that you do for the sake of the lake, See you on May 6th! Kind regards, MaryR

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# TOWN OF COLUMBIA

323 Jonathan Trumbull Highway, Columbia, CT 06237  
(860) 228-0110 FAX: (860) 228-1952

## OFFICE OF THE FIRST SELECTMAN

May 22, 2026

### ANNOUNCEMENT:

There will be no launching of motorized watercraft on Columbia Lake until Marine Patrol is able to launch and moor their watercraft on the Columbia Lake.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven M. Everett".

Steven M. Everett  
First Selectman

Steven M. Everett, *First Selectman*

**Proposal To Be Vetted at LMAC June 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**  
**2026 Staggered Launch of Motorized Watercraft on Columbia Lake**

**Goal:** Identify and implement actions to allow the launch of motorized watercraft when the lake water level is so low it compromises the ability to launch motorized watercraft and creates potential on the lake for safety issues.

**Lake Water Level @ 5/31/26 = -1'5" Below Baseline Water Level (BWL)**

**Normal End of Launch Ramp Water Level at BWL = 40 - 42"**

**Current End of Launch Ramp Water Level = 28"**

**STEPS TO CONSIDER**

**1. Safety First ~ Must Be Able to Launch & Moor the Marine Patrol (MP) Zodiac**

- a) **MP Zodiac Launch** ~ Water depth of \_\_\_X\_\_\_" needed to launch. (to be measured)
- b) **Option 1 Moor** ~ Moor in Boathouse; need minimum water depth of at least 18" to 20" to ensure the Zodiac loaded with 1 Marine Patrol Officer does not hit lake bottom during launch and docking; currently water level is 10" to 11".
- c) **Option 2 Moor** ~ Moor and Park Cars at Farrington's on Nuhfer Drive – Noreen is open to providing one of her four docks when it is safe to moor the MP Zodiac. Currently all of the docks' water level are not sufficient to safely moor especially in stormy, windy weather. She fears that there may be damage done to the Zodiac and/or the dock. She requires that the town provide a release of liability statement as before.  
Dock 1: Water Level = 11"; Dock 2: Water Level = 12"; Dock 3: Water Level = 15"; Dock 4: Water Level = 27"
- d) **Option 3 Moor** ~ Moor on a Mooring: need rowboat to paddle to the mooring.

**2. Assess Each Motorized Watercraft's Ability for a Staggered Launch**

- a) **Use Tape Measure To Determine If Trailer and Watercraft Bottom Meet Minimum Water Depth Required To Launch:** With the gate closed daily post on town website and at the launch gate sharing the number of inches required for the trailer's rear tires and part of the watercraft above the boat bottom to be in the water at the end of the launch. This can be done at home, at a marina or at the launch gate. Measure from the ground up to where water is above the rear trailer tire and a few inches above the watercraft bottom. This indicates if your boat likely will be in deep enough water to float off the trailer at the town launch. It gives an owner a way to measure without having to travel to the launch. All inspections must be completed prior to attempting to launch. If the marker is met, the gate is opened and trailer/watercraft is backed down to end of ramp marker. If the trailer rear wheel and watercraft bottom is deep enough in the water to float or push the watercraft off the trailer a launching attempt is allowed providing **the rear wheels of the trailer do not go beyond the pavement.** Note, pontoon boats require more water depth than other motorized watercraft.

**3. Outline Possible Temporary Mooring Options When Can't Moor at Dock**

- a) **Option 1** ~ Tie bow of watercraft to end of dock and use an anchor on the stern to moor the watercraft off the dock.
- b) **Option 2** ~ Use a temporary mooring (front) and anchor (back) to moor boat no more than 20' away from dock.

**Proposal To Be Vetted at LMAC June 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**  
**2026 Staggered Launch of Motorized Watercraft on Columbia Lake**  
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**4. Establish A Courtesy 'Safe Passage Perimeter' at 200' From Shore in Shallow Parts of Lake**

- a) In shallower parts of the lake use buoys such as sailboat racing buoys to establish a 200' 'safe passage perimeter' with a slow, no-wake speed for swimmers and non-motorized watercraft such as off of Nuhfer Drive, Buell's Cove, sandbars Near Lakeview Road, Erdoni Road Beach, etc.
- b) Encourage motorized watercraft to use slow, no-wake speed in the safe passage areas especially when entering and exiting to a dock.

**5. Other Items/Questions to Consider**

- a) Currently Fire Department Zodiac is unable to launch hampering response to emergency situations – The Fire Department Zodiac needs a water level of at least 32" at the end of launch ramp.
- b) Is it fair to allow some but not all motorized watercraft on the Lake?
- c) Can/should residents who are able to launch their watercraft sign a release of liability statement?
- d) Should residents be allowed to have a key fob during this period?
- e) Should ski buoys be kept off the lake until the water level is at BWL or close to it?
- f) How do we communicate warnings to swimmers to stay 100' Away From 'Safe Passage Perimeter' Buoys?
- g) Are we worsening sediment resuspension of phosphorus, creating erosion issues or threatening seawall integrity by allowing motorboats when the lake water depth is this low?

**6. Longer Term Solutions to Consider**

- a) Extend launch pad with a fabric such as Geocells (honeycomb-like structures that form a rigid, permeable ramp extension) or Geotextile mats/grids.
- b) Annually dredge migrating sand from the Marine Patrol boathouse and surrounding area to create a thruway for Marine Patrol Zodiac to navigate to and from the boathouse.
- c) Communicate courtesy 'on the lake' safety guidelines to reduce motorized watercraft traveling above 'slow, no-wake' speeds to protect swimmers and non-motorized watercraft users.

**Columbia Lake Dam Data Feb Thru May 2026**

DATE	WATER LEVEL	DAM GATE	AMOUNT OF ICE ON LAKE > 2"	DAY TEMP	UTLEY FLOW	STORMWTR DRAIN FLOW	FORECAST & RAINFALL AMOUNT
2/12/2026	Minus 5'.75"	Closed	100%	35	Mild	Mild	No Precipitation
2/19/2026	Minus 5'1"	Closed	100%	40	Mild	Mild	Rain @ 0.11"
3/4/2026	Minus 4'8.5"	Open 3"	95%	55	Moderate	Moderate	Rain @ 0.19"
3/7/2026	Minus 4'6"	Open 3"	95%	47	Moderate	Moderate	No Precipitation
3/8/2026	Minus 4'6"	Open 3"	90%	57	Moderate	Moderate	No Precipitation
3/9/2026	Minus 4'4"	Open 6"	80%	67	Moderate	Moderate	No Precipitation
3/11/2026	Minus 4'2"	Open 8"	75%	70	Moderate	Moderate	Rain @ 0.67"
3/12/2026	Minus 4'2.25"	Open 8"	70%	58	High	High	No Precipitation
3/13/2026	Minus 4'2"	Open 10"	65%	41	Moderate	Moderate	72 Hour Rain @ >1"
3/14/2026	Minus 4'3"	Open 10"	60%	46	Mild	Mild	48 Hour Rain @ > 1"
3/15/2026	Minus 4'3"	Open 12"	55%	44	Mild	Mild	Forecast @ 1.5 - 2"; High Winds
3/16/2026 AM	Minus 4'4"	Open 12"	50%	46	Rapid	Rapid	Rain @ 0.89"
3/16/2026 PM	Minus 4'3"	Open 12"	< 50%	41	Rapid	Rapid	Rain @ 1.26"
3/17/2026	Minus 4'1.5"	Open 12"	15%%	62	Rapid	Rapid	No Precipitation
3/18/2026	Minus 4'2.25"	Closed	10%	41	Moderate	Moderate	No Precipitation
3/19/2026	Minus 4'0"	Closed	5%%	51	Trickle	Trickle	Misting
3/20/2026	Minus 3'9"	Closed	1%	45	Trickle	Trickle	Rain
3/23/2026		Closed	1%	39	Rapid	Rapid	24 Hour Rain @ 1.5"
3/24/2026	Minus 3'5"	Closed	0%	43	Moderate +	Moderate+	No Precipitation
3/27/2026	Minus 3'1"	Closed	0%	56	Trickle	Trickle	No Precipitation
3/29/2026	Minus 3'2"	Closed	0%	49	Trickle	Trickle	No Precipitation
3/31/2026	Minus 3'1"	Closed	0%	65	Trickle	Trickle	Few Showers Early AM
4/7/2026	Minus 2'7"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	5 Days of Rain @ 1.56"
4/9/2026	Minus 2'5"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	No Precipitation
4/15/2026	Minus 2'5"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	2 Days of Rain @ 0.6"
4/17/2026	Minus 2'4"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	No Precipitation
5/1/2026	Minus 2'2"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	1 Day of Rain @ 0.4"
5/11/2026	Minus 1'11"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	1 Day of Rain @ 0.77"
5/15/2026	Minus 1'8"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	1 Day of Rain @ 1"
5/17/2026	Minus 1'7"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Mild	No Precipitation
5/26/2026	Minus 1'5"	Closed	0%	N/A	Mild	Trickle	2 Days of Rain @ 1.3"

COLUMBIA CT MONTHLY RAINFALL VS AVERAGE RAINFALL				
	MONTH	AVERAGE RAINFALL	2026 MONTHLY RAINFALL	
	April	4.3"	2.7"	-1.6
	May	4.3"	2.1"	-1.6
	June			

**Marine Patrol Meeting Follow-up Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**

**Present:** Mark Walter, Jake Plitt, Christina Hahn, Brian Auld, Bob Powell, Jeff Morrison, Mary Roickle

**Goal:** To review MP roles and responsibilities and ensure all involved parties – MP, Recreation Department, Town Administrator and Lake Management Advisory Commission are ‘on the same page’ respective to MP roles and responsibilities and have communication channels to update one and all as needed.

**Marine Patrol (MP) Roles:**

- Are Good Will Ambassadors who are courteous, cooperative and collaborative in all interactions.
- Responsibilities include providing nautical education, promoting safety, enforcing Town of Columbia (TOC) and CT boating regulations, responding to emergencies and watercraft inspection services on Columbia Lake and at the Town Boat Launch.

**Defining & Handling Major & Minor Infractions:**

- Defining Major versus Minor Infractions
  - Major involves an immediate safety issue; a flagrant offense
  - Minor involves equipment and/or procedural violations i.e. being on the lake after 10:00 PM
  - Documentation ~ all MP interactions will be documented
- Handling Repeat Offenders be it same people and/or same offense ~ 2026 Three Strike Policy
  - Strike 1: Education over Citation - verbal warning issuing written follow as documentation
  - Strike 2: Written warning issuing copy of Warning Form; these infractions will be reviewed by the Recreation Director for possible action as needed
  - Strike 3: Written warning issuing copy of Warning Form; these infractions will be reviewed by the Recreation Director, Town Administrator and State Trooper for possible action as needed.
  - The Town of Columbia Boat Launch Town ordinance provides for a financial penalty of up to \$250 per offense; the penalty can be repeated daily until the behavior is resolved.
- Handling Conflict Strategies
  - Communication & De-escalation Approaches
    - Active Listening
    - Calm Demeanor
    - LSCPA = Listen, Share, Clarify, Present Rationale, Ask for Feedback
  - Operational Approaches
    - Education Over Citation for Minor Infractions
    - Handling Threatening Behaviors - Document & Deescalate

**Marine Patrol Meeting Follow-up Notes**  
**Wednesday, May 6, 2026**  
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**I Care! For the Sake of the Lake Program Roll Out – MP Has Three Educational Roles:**

1. While on the lake or at the town launch, document that nonmotorized watercraft have For the Sake of the Lake Stickers.
2. Educate town residents by handing out For the Sake of the Lake materials for resident to secure their stickers
3. When town residents bring completed Test and Pledge Forms to the Recreation Office and the office is not open, the MP reviews tests for accuracy and assigns For the Sake of the Lake Stickers by reviewing and ensuring completion of the Pledge Form. (Christina has provided a binder to collect tests and pledge forms)

**Motorboat Boat Inspection Procedure Questions**

- AIS Stamp Procedures – provide AIS Stamp Handout; refer to Town Clerk or online
- Engine Serial Number (ESN) Inspection is Required – if not available motorized watercraft may not launch; as needed internet inquiries will be conducted to verify an engine
- As needed for PWC (Jet skis) convert kilowatts to horsepower to ensure they are within the lake limit for horsepower.

**Improving Communication Channels Through Enhanced Technology**

- Provide Marine Patrol Town Email Addresses
- LMAC Monthly Meeting Attendance and/or Monthly Updates
- MP Utilize iPad for Documentation Purposes

**Other**

- Residency Requirement – if a non-resident the motorized watercraft operator must have a letter issued by the Town Administrator
- Parking Lot Gate at Night – will remain open as of now