



## 2020 FACT SHEET – Potential Crystal Lake Ordinances

The CLAA Board's desire is to be fully transparent and make sure everyone has a voice. Whether you support a slow no wake ordinance, or you oppose such a ban on recreation, our goal is to make sure you have all the facts regarding this important decision as it will impact every family that enjoys boating on Crystal Lake now and in the future.

Given this, we encourage all residents to attend either the Town of Rhine and/or Town of Plymouth meetings, which will be voting on identical "slow no wake" and "enhanced wake" ordinances:

**Meeting Dates & Times:** June 2, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

**Location:** Town of Rhine is TBD (Rhine Town Hall or ELHS auditorium)

*\*The Town of Rhine stated the Town of Plymouth "follows its lead" as it controls more than 60% of Crystal Lake shore area; however, we strongly recommend Plymouth residents voice their opinion to ensure accurate/full representation.*

### "NO WAKE" ORDINANCE FACTS:

- 1) On May 12, 2020, during a meeting that was closed to public comment, **the Town of Rhine ordinance committee passed by unanimous vote language that would enact a SLOW NO WAKE – ORDINANCE, TRIGGERED AT 3" OVER AVG. WATER MARK ELEVATION**
  - a. At these levels, "NO WAKE" would have been enforced for the entirety of 2019
  - b. On the day of the May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, Crystal Lake read 8.5 inches **OVER** the Avg. Water Mark Elevation.
    - i. If Passed, this Ordinance means boats **WILL NOT** be allowed to create a wake in 2020 OR BEYOND, until water levels drop below the arbitrary 2020 ordinance trigger of 3" over the avg. water mark elevation for 5 consecutive days.
- 2) The proposed ordinance, language, and enforcement levels **were created by the same committee who faced significant public opinion/opposition in August 2019**, when it wanted to enforce an Emergency Slow NO WAKE ordinance at 6" above the ordinary high-water mark.

In response to public feedback and in good faith partnership, the Sanitary District and CLAA conducted a voluntary homeowner's survey in 2019. **Survey results posted here** – <https://sanitarydistrict.com/files/2019LakeSurvey.pdf>

Key Findings:

- a. **85.5% of property owners had no real property damage from high water in 2019**
    - i. 15 survey respondents indicated they encountered damage to land or home ABOVE the ordinary high water mark; however, only 66.7% or 9 of the 15 respondents supported slow no wake at 6" above the ordinary high water mark
  - b. **71% of ALL homeowner respondents OPPOSED a no wake ordinance at 6" above the ordinary high water mark**
- 3) Applying the proposed 3" trigger level to historical Crystal Lake Data
    - a. Between 1986-2000 Crystal Lake would have been NO WAKE for **approximately 10 out of 14 years or 71% of the time**
    - b. Despite knowing and fully understanding this historical data, the Town of Rhine is now recommending NO WAKE enforcement at just 3" above Average Water Mark Elevation vs. last year's hotly contested 6" above Average Water Mark Elevation



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### “Enhanced Wake” ORDINANCE FACTS:

- 1) The Town of Rhine committee also stated they intend to propose and vote on a previously prepared ordinance (that has not been released to the public) that prohibits “enhanced wakes”, **REGARDLESS OF WATER LEVEL**
  - a. What does this mean?
    - i. The Ordinance committee wants all boats to be operated “on plane”
      1. This would eliminate the ability to safely operate a boat at slow speeds (i.e. No more “beginner” tubing with small children or grandchildren)
      2. This would eliminate boats from mechanically increasing the size of its wake

Last year, great strides were made on alternative solutions and increased transparency across the CLAA, Town of Rhine, Town of Plymouth and the Sanitary District, which is why we were surprised the Town of Rhine Ordinance Committee decided to **meet and approve ordinance language without accounting for both historical and/or current feedback from taxpayers.**

We all love Crystal Lake, which is why we established working groups and committees to address these critically important issues as they relate to boating and the enjoyment of such an amazing resource. If you or anyone you know need assistance with piers or shoreline remediation, let the CLAA know as we are happy to lend a helping hand and ensure you can fully enjoy your summer.

Your opinions matter and we encourage EVERYONE to let your respective Town Ordinance committees know how you feel as Crystal Lake is our HOME.

\*\* For a more details and facts, please review Lake Recreation Brief 5.17.20