

Robert Hanson

From: <mayor@indianlakepa.us>
Date: Monday, June 27, 2011 12:37 PM
To: <ADMIN@indianlakepa.us>
Subject: Mayor's June 2011 Newsletter



Indian Lake Borough Office of the Mayor

I hope that all our enjoying the summer months even though the weather has not been the best we have ever had. In any event, please take note of the following issues pertaining to lake safety. Your cooperation is necessary to avoid accidents of any kind on the lake this summer.

BOATING SAFETY

I have received a number of complaints from residents regarding unsafe activities on the lake, most pertaining to Personal Watercraft (Jet Skis). To ensure that all can enjoy the lake and that we have no unfortunate accidents a couple of reminders seem prudent:

1. The lake traffic pattern is COUNTER-CLOCKWISE.
2. All powerboats must remain at least 100 feet from the shoreline or any dock or watercraft. In the narrow areas of the lake, you may have to give way to boats towing skiers and inner tubes in order to maintain 100' of separation.
3. Jet Ski operators are reminded that operation of a Jet Ski within 100' of a boat, moving or not, is illegal. DO NOT "jump the wake" behind a moving boat.

I have asked the Police, in response to the complaints received, to step up enforcement to ensure that no one's safety is compromised. Our goal is not to write citations but rather to ensure that the lake remains a safe recreational environment. Unfortunately, the police cannot be everywhere. Regardless, I hope that all boaters will operate responsibly so that enforcement is not necessary. Operating boats according to the boating regulations will ensure that ALL can have an enjoyable and safe boating season.

BUOYS AND FLOATING RAFTS

A number of complaints have been received regarding bouy's and floating rafts and after discussion the issue with residents and members of Council it appears that there is some confusion regarding the installation of buoys and floating rafts in the lake. The following is intended to inform all of the ordinance standards relative to Buoy's and Floating rafts to give anyone who is not in conformance with these standards the opportunity to take appropriate remedial measures as a means of mitigating the need for formal enforcement.

BUOY's

According to the boating ordinance, a lakefront lot owner may install a buoy no more than 40' from the shoreline at a point perpendicular to the shoreline at the side property line. Before installing such

a buoy, realize that a permit is also required from the PA Fish Commission. To the extent that a buoy is a "structure" as defined in the Zoning Ordinance, an encroachment permit issued by the zoning officer is also required. There are several buoy's throughout the lake that have been installed well beyond the 40' limit. These cause navigational hazards to boaters and diminish the usable area of the lake.

To the extent that those who have installed these buoy's did so in response to boaters that operate too close to the shoreline, it is hoped that the notice above coupled with increased enforcement will curb such unsafe activity.

FLOATING RAFTS:

It is noted that a number of residents have installed floating rafts/swim platforms beyond the shoreline in front of their property. While these structures are not defined in the Zoning Ordinance, to the extent that they are an encroachments, an encroachment permit is necessary (granted by the Zoning Officer). Understand also that the Zoning Ordinance grants a permissive use area of only 30' into the lake in the areas adjacent of the lake bordering any residential district (R-1/Park). Please contact the Borough Zoning Officer, Dean Snyder, to obtain the appropriate encroachment permit and remember that these floating rafts must be kept within 30' of the shoreline. Finally, if anchoring to the lake bottom (as opposed to tying them to something on the shoreline) you may additionally need a DEP Chapter 105 small project permit similar to a floating dock.

IN MEMORIUM

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of Barry Lichty, our former Mayor, on Sunday June 26th. Barry served the Borough for nearly two decades and had a total of 31 years of public service between Somerset and Indian Lake Borough before retiring at the end of 2009. His contributions to the Borough are too numerous to mention but several stand to remind us all of Barry and his service. As you drive through the Borough at night and can see better because of street lights, think fondly of Barry. He passionately argued for streetlights at key intersections throughout the Borough. They exist because of his persistence. The next time you visit the hiking/biking trail, think fondly of Barry. He was tireless in working with a number of agencies and officials to not only secure the funding, but see the hiking/biking trail become a reality by overcoming numerous permitting and construction hurdles. When the hiking/biking trail was dedicated, I was pleased as then President of Borough Council to present Barry with a memorial bench at the Buckstown entrance to the trail to commemorate his efforts. When you use or visit the trail, I hope that you will remember that it was Barry that made it happen. Finally, when you use the lake, think of Barry. For many years Barry took on the task of leading the dam remediation effort with DEP. But for his tireless involvement and personal relationship with the DEP staff, we would not have been able to get some of the concessions necessary that allowed the project to proceed in a manner that would permit us to continue to use the lake. As many other lakes are being drained throughout the state, ours has not in large part due to Barry's efforts.

Barry embodied the concept of citizenship and his level of service to his community is an example for us all to model. Indian Lake is a better place because of his many years of dedicated effort on behalf of us all. He will be sorely missed. Please join me in extending heartfelt condolences to Lladel and the rest of Barry's family. Keep them all in your prayers. Unfortunately, I cannot provide any information regarding the arrangements at this time but will forward that information when it is available.

/s/

Michael Miscoe
Mayor
Indian Lake Borough

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