



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on September 13, 2016, in the Board of Supervisors Meeting Room of the R.E. Holbert Memorial Building, 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, Virginia, to receive public comment on a proposed Resolution supporting a consistent distance from the shoreline of Lake Anna and the Application to the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) for a consistent 200-foot setback rule for Lake Anna.

The proposed Resolution recognizes that currently Spotsylvania County has an ordinance in effect that defines distance from shore for motorboats specific to "towing skis or surfboard near shoreline of Lake Anna" (Spotsylvania County Code, Section 14-12) and this ordinance is inconsistent with other ordinances in content, distance from shore, and degree of penalties for violations, making law enforcement very difficult on Lake Anna.

With innovative designs, greater horsepower, and unique engineering to increase boat performance and operation in the creation of ever-increasing size of wakes have increased safety concerns that have arisen as a result of these developments, and reports of small boats and paddle sports enthusiasts being swamped and overturning, waves crashing over occupied docks, rip rap being washed back into the water at an accelerated rate, and sea walls being damages have become increasingly common complaints among Lake Anna residents.

The Code of Virginia states that it is unlawful to operate any motorboat at greater than no-wake speed when 50 feet or less from docks, piers, boathouses, boat ramps, and people in the water, but in reality, 50 feet has not proven to be an adequate distance to provide a safe boating environment for all of Lake Anna's users. Additionally, research shows that it takes 200 feet for a 2 to 3-foot wave to dissipate before damaging the shoreline.

To support law enforcement on Lake Anna and to promote safety on the water, there is a need for a consistent requirement that no person shall operate any motorboat or vessel towing an individual(s) on skis, tubes, or any similar device, or on surfboard or any similar device including wakeboarding, wake skating and wake surfing, within 200 feet or less of the shoreline, docks, piers, and boathouses. Through the proposed Resolution, the Board would agree to support this application to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for implementation on Lake Anna.

Persons affected may appear and present their views at the public hearing described above. A copy of the full text of the proposed resolution is on file in the Office of the County Administrator, located at 9104 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, Virginia, 22553, and may be inspected between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Board of Supervisors encourages the participation of all interested county citizens. For those with special needs, please notify the County Administrator of any accommodations you may require at least five days before the meeting you wish to attend.

By the Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors
Mark B. Taylor, County Administrator