

PROPOSED CHANGE TO FISHING RULES

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Board of Directors

I think most of you who have fished the pond fairly regularly, whether or not you remember fishing conditions in the “good old days,” will agree that we have some problems. Our Pond Committee has made an excellent start at improving conditions with installation of the aerators. However, much needs to be done in order to restore the pond and the fishing to what it was years ago. As we work toward this goal, the Board of Directors believes that a change to our fishing rules will provide members with an opportunity for some immediate improvement in both the fishing experience and the catching. Consider the following:

- Peripheral margins around the majority of the pond have become quite shallow due to heavy siltation and foliage accumulation, especially affecting some of the most productive fishing areas (historically) of the pond
- The shallow margins have increasingly been taken over by shiners, sunfish, frogs and their offspring, and strange forms of vegetation
- The trout, which had historically cruised in plain sight along these edges, now avoid them in favor of deeper water far from the shoreline
- Most club members (myself included) are unable to cast far enough to reach visibly feeding trout, which now primarily cruise and feed far from shore
- These factors have significantly diminished the effective fishing area of the pond, the overall fishing experience and the fishing success rate of the membership.

The Board of Directors therefore proposes to enact a change to the fishing rules in order to expand fishing opportunities for the membership. The change would be implemented this coming season on a “trial basis,” and monitored closely to determine if it requires any tweaking. If it is successful and embraced by the membership, it could be made permanent. Alternatively, if the club is able to clear away peripheral debris and unwanted wildlife, and the trout routinely return to shoreline habitat, it could be terminated.

Specifically, the Board proposes that personal watercraft be allowed on the pond, subject to certain restrictions, as listed below:

1. There shall be no watercraft usage on or soon after club “opening days.” Usage may begin two weeks after the spring opening day, and one week after fall opening day.
2. Watercraft shall be limited to self-propelled, single-person craft, such as kayaks, belly-boats and kick-boats (maximum length 12 feet).
3. Only full club members may utilize watercraft, and a suitable PFD (life jacket) must be worn.
4. Watercraft must be cleaned prior to each use, to prevent transfer of invasive species.
5. Members seeking to use watercraft must be properly trained/informed about invasive species, in a manner to be determined and provided by the club.
6. There shall be a maximum of three craft on the pond at any time, and they shall not interfere with shore-bound anglers or each other.
7. The bottom of the pond may not be disturbed in any way, thus restricting craft usage at the shallowest areas of the pond.
8. All other club rules apply; Flies must be cast - trolling and jigging shall be prohibited.
9. For everyone’s safety, there shall be no craft usage before dawn or after dusk.
10. The club is not responsible for the safety of members fishing from personal watercraft, or for the consequences of any related unsafe actions.