

**PUBLIC HEARING  
MAY 11, 2021**

**Sunset Strait Speed Limit Reduction**

Minutes of a public hearing on the above date beginning at 5:50 in the Meeting Room of the North Elba Town Hall, 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, New York and via GoToMeeting.

**Members Present:** Supervisor Rand, Councilman Favro, Councilwoman Politi, Councilman Cummings, and Laurie Dudley, Attorney Briggs

**Members Absent:** Councilman Doty

**Others Present:** Lori Fitzgerald, George Lavelle, Greg Borzilleri, Butch Martin, Chuck Dobson, Bill More, Jim McKenna, MJ Lawrence

**Video Conference (GoToMeeting):** Scott Langen, Mary and Martin Shubert, Fred Balzac, Haley Breen, Cathy Edman, Naj Wikoff, Betsy Hlavacek, Kathy Trainor, Diane Reynolds, Elizabeth Izzo (Adirondack Daily Enterprise)

Supervisor Rand opened the public hearing on the Sunset Strait Speed Limit Reduction by reading the Public Notice which was properly published and posted.

Please take notice that the North Elba Town Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 5:50 pm for the purpose of reducing the speed limit in Sunset Strait on Lake Placid Lake. Said meeting shall be held in the meeting room 2693 Main Street, Lake Placid, NY 12946

Supervisor Rand read the following Ordinance:

**Ordinance Regulating: The Speed of a Vessel in  
Sunset Strait in the Town of North Elba.**

For the purpose of regulating the speed of vessels traveling through Sunset Strait in the body of Lake Placid, the Town Board does hereby ordain as follows:

1. There shall hereafter be a vessel regulation zone in Sunset Strait beginning at the buoy currently located at the east end of Sunset Strait and continuing the entire length of Sunset Strait to the buoy currently located at the west end of Sunset Strait (the "Sunset Strait Zone").
2. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a vessel while in the Sunset Strait Zone at a speed greater than 15 mile per hour (13.0346 knots)
3. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a vessel while in the Sunset Strait Zone at a speed which creates a wake.
4. Violation of this Ordinance, or any part thereof, shall be a misdemeanor and shall be punishable for each offense by a fine not exceeding \$250, or by imprisonment not exceeding 15 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment.
5. This Ordinance shall take effect after its adoption and upon publication as required by Town Law §133.

Supervisor Rand – We are now prepared to take comments.

Marty Shubert – I have driven boats on this Lake for 44 years. I feel if the speed limit is not 5 mph you will have a title wave. Anything over 5 mph a boat drags its stern and creates wave that is very dangerous. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Mary Shubert – I am a frequenter of the Lake as well. I love Kayaking through Sunset Strait. When two boats are passing in the narrows of the Strait between Buck Island and the end of the Peninsula near the Erickson Camp and the Bonner Camp on Buck Island is less than 100 feet.

Supervisor Rand – The narrowest part is 340 ft.

Mary Shubert – Is that including the docks and boathouses?

Supervisor Rand – That is shoreline to shoreline.

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Mary Shubert – Those docks, the boathouses, the small crafts, people swimming in front of their camps. They are getting rocked and rolled at 20 mph. As Marty said, 15 mph is too much. We believe it should be 5 mph like the entrance to Paradox Bay.

Supervisor Rand – If it is within 100 feet of shore, it is 5 mph. That is DEC regulations for anywhere on the Lake.

Mary Shubert – We don't understand where you got this 15 mph, Jay.

Supervisor Rand – It came about from representatives of the Lake, David Bumstead was one. To give history, last summer with all of the issues on Lake Placid and the number of people boating. There were a lot of people that didn't know how to operate a boat and were very irresponsible. We formed a Lake Committee which was initiated by David Bumstead. On the Committee is myself, the Mayor, David Bumstead, another shore owner representative, Chief of Police, Bill Moore and Meghan LaPierre from the DEC. We met several times. We just hired a new constable, Buzzy Richard to replace his father. We are very excited about that. That is how it all started. We first had to apply for a Floatable Object Permit which we did. It was a lengthy process. This is why we are having a public hearing. To conclude it, a public hearing is necessary to present Ordinance to the DEC.

Marty Schubert – Jay, I am sure you have been on the Lake enough to know that when the wakeboard boats go 15mph because they use the wake to do their tricks. The rental boat people maybe told once the regulations but they don't always obey them. It is a can of worms at 15 mph.

Supervisor Rand – The one thing this will do regardless of the speed, the verbiage on the buoy will say, "Vessel Regulation Zone Maximum Speed 15 mph within 100 ft. 5 mph". That is where we are. We appreciate your comments and certainly they will be taken into consideration. Are there other comments?

Betsy Hlavacek – We have a camp on Buck Island and several number of neighbors are having a terrible time with the erosion of their shoreline because of the intense wake. My reason for being here today is to support the idea of a buoy or signage indicating what the speed limit is. There are so many people on the lake that don't know the regulation. The people who rent boats and people who live on the Lake do not know the regulations.

Diane Reynolds – Will the buoys be large enough that it will indicate that the speed is 15 mph and will there be enough of them to force them to slow down?

Supervisor Rand – We hope so. It is marked on each end. The entrances aren't very wide. The more you have there the better but in this case we have applied for a buoy at each end of the strait.

Diane Reynolds – One on each side of the Strait or just one?

Supervisor Rand – One entering each end.

Diane Reynolds – I would like to see one on either side of the Strait.

Supervisor Rand – Thank you for your comments. We will certainly take everything into consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further discussion, Supervisor Rand closed the public hearing at 6:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Curtis Dudley  
Town Clerk