



## CONNECTICUT INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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First Selectwomen Lori Spielman  
55 Main Street  
Ellington, CT 06029

RE: Crystal Lake

Dear First Selectwomen Spielman,

This letter is in follow up to the Town of Ellington's request for CIRMA Risk Management Services regarding the use of floating rafts at Crystal Lake. On May 25<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held at Crystal Lake with DPW Director T. Webb, Park and Rec Director R. Tedford along with his Assistant Director. I, along with CIRMA Risk Management Services Manager G. Tammaro were also in attendance. As part of this meeting we assessed the potential risks and potential liability associated with the use of a floating raft at the Crystal Lake location. The exposures that were discussed included:

- Water levels at the lake, particularly around the proposed raft area. Varying depths could be a potential hazard for residents jumping or diving off the raft. Even if diving is not permitted, it does not mean that residents won't dive, and the depths are currently not adequate for this activity as they vary from 3-5ft. Additionally, it was explained to us that the floor of the lake in the proposed raft area is muddy and soft. This presents another potential issue with residents jumping off the raft feet first. They could get stuck in the mud, submerged under the water, depending on the individual's height.
- Vandalism is another concern. Removal of anchors could cause the raft to drift around out of its proposed location and over areas that again have varying depths resulting in jumping and diving exposures. It could also cause the raft to drift over and/or into patrons swimming in the area.
- Another potential concern is the use of the raft after hours. Although the Crystal Lake location is closed at dusk, a raft could be an attractive nuisance and attract after hours users, which as it was explained to us has been an issue in the past. Even with routine police patrols, anyone using the raft after hours can simply hide behind or under the raft out of sight from any patrol passing by.

It was determined at our meeting that based on the potential exposures that the Town would not be using the raft.

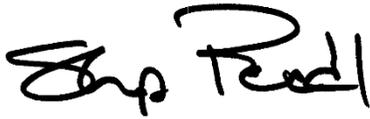
Additionally, at our meeting there was also a signage question that was discussed. This involved a unauthorized "Notice" sign that was posted by a resident that is located on a sign pole that is designated for emergency vehicle parking. (Pictures are attached). This sign does not follow the other signage language and information that the other Parks and Recreation signs have included on them. An example of this is that the sign says "No Lifeguard on Duty" when clearly life guards are in use at certain times of the day. It is therefore recommended that this sign be removed as to not create any confusion or misinform for residents and patrons of the lake.

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Again, I'd like to thank the Town for this request for service and if you should have any questions about our discussions or on the recommendations provided please don't hesitate to give me a call.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen Pendl". The signature is stylized with a large, looped initial "S" and a cursive "Pendl".

Stephen Pendl  
Risk Management Consultant  
CIRMA Risk Management Services

CC: Robert Tedford  
Tim Webb  
Mary Bartley

Attahcements

**NOTICE: NOT A DESIGNATED SWIMMING AREA**

**NO LIFEGUARD ON DUTY** 

**NO WATER QUALITY TESTING**

**SWIM AT YOUR OWN RISK**

**NO DIVING** 

**UNDERWATER HAZARDS MAY EXIST** 

**PARENTS WATCH YOUR CHILDREN** 

**SWIMMING UNDER THE INFLUENCE IS DANGEROUS** 

**BEACH RULES**

**SWIMMING ALLOWED WHEN LIFEGUARD IS ON DUTY**

**NO ALCOHOL**  
**NO TRICK JUMPS FROM RAFT**  
**NO FEEDING DUCKS OR GEESE**  
**NO ABUSIVE LANGUAGE**  
**NO PUBLIC SWIMMING UNTIL 11 AM WEEKENDS & 12 PM WEEKDAYS**

ADULTS MUST ACCOMPANY CHILDREN UNDER 10

ONLY COAST GUARD APPROVED PFD'S AND LIFE JACKETS ARE ALLOWED UNDER ADULT SUPERVISION IN SHALLOW AREA

**SAVE THE LAKE**

Our Purpose: The Purpose of the CRYSTAL LAKE ASSOCIATION is to preserve, protect and improve Crystal Lake and its surrounding areas, and to promote the general welfare of the property, its owners and residents.

Please Help Us Continue To Be Good Stewards Of The Lake  
 Donate To The CLA Today!

Your Donations Will Support:  
 Dune Maintenance  
 Ongoing Weeds Removal  
 Shoreline Clean Up  
 Continual In-Persons, Protect & Improve Our Lake

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[www.CrystalLakeEllingtonCT.com](http://www.CrystalLakeEllingtonCT.com)

  
**LIFEGUARD**

**BEACH REGULATIONS**

- Follow Lifeguards' Instructions.
- Swimming Permitted Only When Lifeguards are On Duty.
- No Diving Off Raft.
- No Alcoholic Beverages or Glass Containers Permitted.
- No Running.
- No Floatation Devices Permitted.
- No Snorkels, Masks or Scuba Permitted.
- Swim Attire Required.
- No Pets.
- Litter Should be Placed in Containers.