

**DECLARATION OF LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY EMERGENCY
FOR THE TOWN OF NEW MILFORD, CONNECTICUT
PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTIONS 502 (f) and 808(d)**

WHEREAS, the Housatonic River ("River"), including the area at 761 Kent Road, also known as Fisherman's Cove, flows through the entire north to south length of New Milford and has strong currents, large freestones on the riverbed and deep pools; and flows adjacent to Kent Road and River Road which are public highways, and

WHEREAS, Dikes Point, is located at the northern end of Candlewood Lake, and 761 Kent Road, Fisherman's Cove is in Gaylordsville, northern New Milford. Both present potential and demonstrated water safety and public health hazards to individuals accessing those areas, and

WHEREAS, both Dikes Point and Fisherman's Cove are owned by First Light and both areas are accessed by public highways, and

WHEREAS, the Town of New Milford owns an area known as Sega Meadiows, also located on the River off of River Road, a public highway, which is the subject of a Declaration of Local Public Safety Emergency issued by the Honorable Mayor Pete Bass (Mayor) on July 27, 2022 and filed with Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection and on file in the New Milford Town Clerk's Office, and which Declaration and Orders remain in full force and effect, and

WHEREAS, numerous issues relating to hazardous water use, camp and cook fires, accumulation of garbage, trash, human waste, unsanitary practices and over-crowded motor vehicle parking continually arise resulting in serious public health and safety threats and hindrance of first response vehicles should rapid-action and rescue become necessary, placing the public and first responders at risk of harm, and

WHEREAS, there is no Connecticut DEEP swimming protection or patrol, crowd management nor lifeguards and there have been drownings, near drownings necessitating rescues, and serious accidents at both locations including as recently as July 13, 2025, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor has received requests for intervention from the New Milford first response agencies relating to the current above-described state of affairs and has determined after consultation with New Milford legal, police and emergency service and First Light officials that it is critically important that the Town take action, and

WHEREAS, the Mayor obtained the authority of First Light Energy to take all lawful mayoral action relating to both Dikes Point and Fisherman's Cove so as to attempt to ameliorate the above-described situation and conduct, and

WHEREAS, the Town through its Mayor, has authority pursuant to New Milford Charter section 808 (d) to declare a public safety emergency and take all reasonably necessary action in his judgment to attempt to ameliorate the above-described conditions and reduce the threats to public safety,

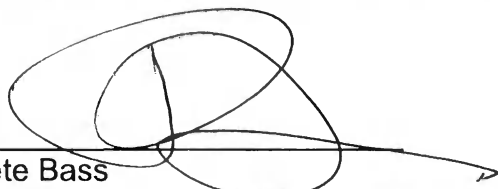
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DECLARED pursuant to New Milford Charter Sections 502 (f) and 808 (d), that the Town is in a state of a local public safety emergency as a result of the above-described conduct and resulting conditions which conditions constitute threats to public health, safety and life..

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that, during the existence of said local public safety emergency I, Pete Bass, as the Town of New Milford's chief executive officer and chief administrative officer, shall assume and exercise the powers, functions, and duties prescribed and provided by law, including but not limited to the Connecticut General Statutes, New Milford Charter Sections 808(d), 501 and 502, including the power and authority to temporarily suspend the effect of regulations of other municipal agencies, relating to public access roads and the use of and conduct at both Dikes Point and Fisherman's Cove, place signage, suspend and/or regulate parking and deploy police personnel together with and in addition to all rights and authorities provided under the Town's Code of Ordinances, and Connecticut General Statutes and may take such police action as necessary to protect the public health and permanently mitigate this emergency consistent with pertinent constitutional, statutory, regulatory, Charter, and Ordinance provisions; and

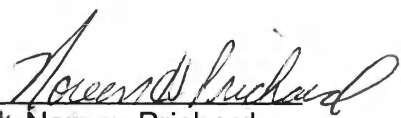
IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this state of emergency shall remain in effect until terminated by further order; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that this Order shall be available for review and inspection in the Office of the Town Clerk of the Town of New Milford during regular business hours and shall be posted at both the Town Clerk's Office and on the Town's website at www.newmilford.org and a copy sent to the State Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

Dated: July 14, 2025


Pete Bass
Mayor of the Town of New Milford, CT

Attested:


Noreen Prichard
Town Clerk

