

**DRAFT FOR APPROVAL**

**BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION**

**MINUTES**

**May 8, 2021**

**Bois Blanc Township – via Teleconference**

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Chris Suchner, at 10:30 a.m.

**Members Present:** Don Balbaugh, Richard Berger, Brent Canup, Tom Wybranowski, Chris Suchner. **Absent:** Dave Carter, Paul Jahn. **Also present:** Larry Phillips, Harbormaster, Curt Plaunt, Plaunt Transportation, Cliff Bloom, Township Lawyer.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Motion** made by T. Wybranowski to approve the Minutes of March 13, 2021, and March 27, 2021, as presented. **Second** by D. Balbaugh. **Roll call vote:** Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, T. Wybranowski, C. Suchner. Nays: None. Absent: D. Carter, P. Jahn. **Motion carried.**

At this time, Paul Jahn joined the meeting at 10:36 a.m.

**Harbormaster.** Larry Phillips reported that the crane was brought over to lift out the north ramp to do the strengthening by Weld Tech. It was not large enough to carry the load so the repair has been rescheduled for May 17. The skid pier is in place and leveled and bubblers removed. Tomorrow, there will be an attempt to slide the finger piers back into place and remove the bubblers. Significant work done on the township pier in the Pines.

The financial report was postponed to the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The members discussed the City of Cheboygan's plans for the municipal parking lot. B. Canup reviewed his discussion with Cheboygan's City Manager, Tom Eustice. Due to plans for the Riverwalk, the parking lot adjacent to Plaunt Transportation will lose a large portion of the parking lot with only about 12-16 spaces left. They plan to create a green space and improve the area for transient boaters. Cheboygan has also purchased property to the north of the county marina out to the crib light. They are in the process of developing that parcel into a harbor, and have had extensive discussions with Great Lakes cruise companies regarding docking in this space.

The group discussed hiring a professional grant writer. B. Canup has talked with a grant writer near Traverse City who has worked for FEMA and is a planner. He will be talking with her more. He indicated there is a tremendous amount of money for these kinds of projects. There is a group called the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance that also finds grant money, along with MDOT money available. Our congressman, Jack Bergman, also helps with these issues. The Township has not yet looked at any of these groups for assistance. D. Akright, Township Clerk, suggested that the Harbor Commission prepare an RFQ and contact the groups to work with them on harbor projects. B. Canup will send out a draft of an RFQ to the Commission members for approval and go from there. L. Phillips would like to see someone hired for all the projects the township has planned. D. Akright suggested that a committee be formed, possibly consisting of Commission/Township members, to review engineering for these projects along the lines of MDOT's process. B. Canup suggested a group consisting of two people each from the Harbor Commission and the Township Board. He, L. Phillips, and T. Wybranowski will contact the Township Board for one more member.

C. Suchner indicated that the Commission should have a usage plan for the BBRH property for the possibility of an exemption on the property taxes. The City of Cheboygan had taxed the river property immediately, and the Township is currently in litigation regarding that. C. Bloom indicated that there should be a usage plan for the future. C. Suchner and D. Akright will work to put together a usage plan.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

L. Phillips said that the position for Assistant Harbormaster has been posted. Three people have applied but no date has been set for interviews.

## **HARBOR COMMISSION COMMENTS**

L. Phillips said that in regard to the work done on the old Pines Dock recently, he would like some direction on signage. C. Suchner was concerned about potential liability as to the way it was done with outside sources. C. Bloom indicated that there is always liability, no matter how or by whom it was done. He said that signage generally helps to minimize liability. The Township will have to look at refining the job done at some point, but until then signage will be helpful.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

C. Bloom praised L. Phillips and B. Canup for the way they have made the effort to get things done. He also thanked Plaunt Transportation for the extra time and effort they have made to get people and equipment over to the Island early in the year, as the demand has been incredible.

M. Gahn said that due to the weather and being unprotected at his space at the launch ramp, he would like to request a new space or a reduction in his mooring rate. There are no spaces

available and about 10 people are on the waiting list. After discussion, the Commission decided that there would be no reduced rate at this time. He will be placed on the waiting list.

Next meeting will be Saturday, June 12, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to adjourn the meeting. Second by P. Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Canup, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski, C. Suchner. Nays: None. Absent: D. Carter.

Submitted by,



Betty Hutchinson  
Recording Secretary

**APPROVED BY THE HARBOR COMMISSION JUNE 12, 2021**