

**BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION
MINUTES
September 11, 2021
Bois Blanc Township**

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman, Don Balbaugh, at 10:35 a.m.

Members Present: Don Balbaugh, Richard Berger, Carl Miller, Paul Jahn, Tom Wybranowski (entered 10:45). **Also Present:** Larry Phillips, Betty Hutchinson, Cliff Bloom, Joe Fitzgerald, Curt Plaunt. **Absent:** Brent Canup, Chris Suchner.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Harbor Commission observed a moment of silence for the fallen on September 11, 2001.

Motion made by Carl Miller to accept the minutes of August 14, 2021, as presented. Second by Paul Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, Carl Miller, P. Jahn. Nays: None. Absent: Brent Canup, Chris Suchner, Tom Wybranowski. **Motion carried.**

Harbormaster: L. Phillips said the dock area has been very busy with parking being a problem. Dock space has been full every weekend with no transient space available. Discussion regarding reservations for a transient slip, but there have to be a certain number of designated spots in a marina. C. Bloom said he will get some legal opinions over the winter in relation to transient slips. Larry is getting signs for the fire lane, which has become a problem with people parking directly in the front of the fire well. He would also like to revamp all the signs on the dock area to make clear directions. Discussion regarding revising the ordinances concerning the marina. Redoing the washed-out parking area is in progress.

Finance: In the absence of T. Wybranowski, D. Balbaugh outlined the finances. The marina fund beginning balance is \$380,386.05. Ending balance is \$377,616.51. No checks written. There was a mooring refund of \$499.62 to David Viers.

NEW BUSINESS

Phone-Ins. This item on the agenda was postponed until spring as there are special projects underway. D. Balbaugh said he would like to see the telephone call-ins dropped because of the calls with harsh and rude comments. This does not happen when people are present at the meetings. Cliff Bloom indicated that it would be permissible to meet on the mainland during the winter months. A quorum would have to be present at those meetings.

Parking Lots. D. Balbaugh said the parking situation next to the PIE building and next to the restrooms have to be addressed this winter. There is much congestion and parking in illegal areas. Cliff Bloom has been working on ordinances for these lots and the back lot. He would like to finish them this winter. Enforcement will be a problem, but signs and towing may be an answer. Joe Fitzgerald indicated that towing and impoundment would be an issue. He said he

would speak to the sheriff as to the ability to issue tickets. Larry would also like to review the signage in the dock area. He and Don will work on that over the winter.

(Note: Tom Wybranowski entered at 10:45 a.m.).

OLD BUSINESS

Update on River Property. D. Balbaugh said that the Township Board signed the contract with U.P. Engineering to start the process of some of the drawings. Some of the commissioners will meet with them on-site to get an idea what the Township will require. C. Bloom indicated that, before the township purchased the river property, there were a number of investigations and reports that were done such as a full wetlands determination (less than 10 or 12 percent of it was wetlands), extensive soil borings, Phase I and II Environmental, and surveys. If there are any questions of culpability, these reports are on file at the Township Hall. T. Wybranowski said he pulled out about 15-20 pages that show the factual parts of these reports. He will send these to the Harbor Commission members.

Harbormaster. Update on Rubber Bumpers/Main Dock. L. Phillips said that bumpers were ordered before his tenure as Harbormaster. They were the wrong size. The uprights to be replaced were 6 inches wide. The bumpers received were 8 inches wide. This meant that all the stanchions and uprights had to be worked on to make these \$20,000 bumpers usable. They were sent back. Weld Tech now has them done and should be here this week to begin installation.

New fire lane signs have been posted to prevent parking in front of them.

Road progress/Back dock. The Township has applied for permits to cross the wetlands to get access to the back parking lot. No word on that.

Causeway Repair. The causeway washed out on the west side. Riprap could not be brought in until the dock was repaired. Now we are waiting for a company to bring the riprap. Re-paving before the riprap is brought in would be a problem as it could be washed out with another storm.

Outhouses. The restrooms are full and need to be pumped out. Part of the problem is groundwater seeping into the tanks. We are waiting for Merchant Excavating to come in but they are shorthanded and we are on the list. They are shut down until that time. Larry said there are some new people on the island with a company that would be willing to come up with their equipment and service anyone that needs that service

Comments from Harbor Commission Members

Carl Miller asked for clarification on the financial report regarding the beginning and ending balance. The correct beginning balance is \$380,486.05. Diane Akright explained the process of maintaining the Harbor financials. She will provide the Harbor Commission with a more detailed account each month.

C. Bloom asked for clarification on the number of gas cans allowed to be carried on the ferry. Coast Guard rules indicate that 2 cans of gasoline or 2 propane tanks, full or empty, and must be

carried in a vehicle, not directly on the boat. He recommended that it be publicized. Plaunt Transportation has it posted on their Facebook page.

Public Comments

Former Harbor Commission member, Tom Lower, had sent a letter to the Harbor Commission Chairman, outlining his displeasure with the Harbor Commission's maintenance of the harbor. He indicated he had talked to several people regarding his feelings on the situation and received no word on any action. Mr. Lower had a problem with the flag not being handled properly, bumpers not installed, garbage overflowing in the bins, and signage for his mooring slip. C. Bloom indicated that the Harbormaster position has always been a thankless task and said that Larry has done a good job during his tenure. He also suggested that a volunteer group to help with harbor issues might be something to think about. After much discussion, and referring to the issues addressed above, the Harbor Commission indicated they will continue to work on these issues.

Beth Beson indicated her support for phone-ins and said that they might be a good tool for conference calling for the members. It would first-hand information and eliminate rumors and provide the facts. She said she would hate to see eliminating the conference calling for the Commissions sake and for transparency to the public.

Next meeting will be Saturday, October 9, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

Motion made by C. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m. Second by P. Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, C. Miller, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski. Nays: None. Absent: B. Canup, C. Suchner. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by,

Betty Hutchinson
Recording Secretary