

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

JULY 11, 2020

Bois Blanc Township Hall via Teleconference

Meeting called to order by Chairman, Mike Harrington, at 10:30 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Comments: M. Harrington said that comments are welcome at the end of the meeting and that comments will be limited to three (3) minutes. Comments will be limited to one (1) subject.

Members Present: Bill Akright, Don Balbaugh, Richard Berger, Chris Suchner, Tom Wybranowski, Mike Harrington. Paul Jahn, Absent. Also present: Brent Sharpe Township Supervisor, Larry Phillips, Harbormaster(entered 10:40 a.m.), Joe Fitzgerald, Deputy, Diane Akright, Township Clerk, Cliff Bloom, Township Lawyer, Curt Plaunt, Plaunt Transportation (entered 10:50 a.m.), and Recording Secretary, Betty Hutchinson.

Motion to approve Minutes of June 6, 2020, as presented by Bill Akright. Seconded by D. Balbaugh. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski, M. Harrington. Absent: Paul Jahn. **Motion carried.**

Harbor Report. Brent Sharpe put north ramp back and operated ramp. Working with Larry on replacing the cylinder under the South Pier.

Reports by Subcommittees: M. Harrington indicated that there will be several subcommittees formed to work on projects.

Operations: C. Suchner, Chairperson, said he has nothing to report at this time.

Finance: T. Wybranowski, Chairperson, will be presenting a financial report in more of a layman's format at each meeting. This will be done in conjunction with the Township Clerk and Township Treasurer. Will also work with grant writing team to obtain grant monies that are available. He said that Connie Riopelle worked on a matching grant for the damaged ramp.

Cheboygan River Property: Paul Jahn, Chairperson, was not present.

OLD BUSINESS

Recognition for Greg Dickerson: M. Harrington said the commission would like to recognize Greg's involvement with the harbor for many years and express our appreciation for the time spent. C. Bloom said he had been at the meeting where there was discussion of a plaque to be placed at the harbor. M. Harrington has been trying to reach Graham Whipple, former commission chairman, but has been unsuccessful. Motion made by B. Akright to table this subject until more information can be obtained. Seconded by C. Suchner. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, M. Harrington, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski. Absent: Paul Jahn. **Motion carried.**

Bylaws Change. Discussion regarding Bylaws revision. The group felt that the draft Bylaws were acceptable as written. There are provisions for amendments as needed. The Harbor Commission will recommend the acceptance of the Bylaws to the Township board. Motion made by D. Balbaugh to accept the Bylaws as presented. Seconded by T. Wybranowski. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, M. Harrington, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski. Absent: Paul Jahn. **Motion carried.**

Meeting Time Change. M. Harrington indicated that the meeting times of the Harbor Commission could be changed to better assist Plaunt Transportation in attending the meetings. It would be a benefit to have a Plaunt representative at the meetings. C. Plaunt said that boat schedules interfere with meetings as currently set. July and August are a special problem. T. Wybranowski said that, in checking with the Island calendars, there are no events that would conflict with a change in time. The August meeting will be scheduled at the current time of 10:30 a.m. Motion by C. Suchner to schedule the next meeting for August 1, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. Seconded by D. Balbaugh. Roll call vote: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski, M. Harrington. Absent: P. Jahn. **Motion carried.**

Five Year Plan/Yearly Goals. M. Harrington indicated that this year is still up in the air as to changes that may be required. He wants to make sure that the commission is functioning twelve months out of the year, and try to get through this time by making sure things happen when they are supposed to. In speaking to where the commission is with the plan, D. Akright said that it was put together with Parks & Recreation in mind and with things that had to be done, i.e., the river property. The plan is basic to all harbor activities and we can't apply for any grants under the jurisdiction of the Waterways Commission that require a five year plan without one. M. Harrington said there will be a subcommittee formed to work with the Parks and Recreation Committee and he will meet with the group individually to discuss how to begin working on the plan. C. Bloom suggested contacting other harbor communities for information on their plans. Motion made by B. Akright to table discussion of the Five Year Plan until the August meeting. Seconded by C. Suchner. Roll call vote: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski, M. Harrington. Absent: Paul Jahn. **Motion carried.**

NEW BUSINESS

Extension for North Pier Leading to Causeway. D. Balbaugh asked why the extension has never been connected. C. Plaunt said now would be the time to take care of it while the water is high. After discussion, it was decided that the Harbormaster would come up with a plan to take care of it.

HARBOR COMMISSION MEMBER COMMENT: L. Phillips said he has two things for discussion which would be the parking situation and maintenance for the dock. He would like to hire a person to take care of keeping the dock area clean, i.e., lawn care, garbage pickup, and the goose feces problem. The dock is the first thing visitors see. The group decided that it is imperative to handle this situation immediately instead of tabling until the next meeting. During discussion, D. Akright suggested that a position description should be developed so that there is a very clear definition of what is expected from a maintenance person. The Township board would need to approve a posting but the commission can get it started. M. Harrington, L. Phillips, and D. Akright will develop a plan to be presented at the the August meeting.

As to the parking, there are discussions as to incorporating trailer parking with the vehicle parking at the dock parking lot. There is less parking for vehicles because of the erosion in one section. Vehicles are parking in the section for trailers because spaces are not available for vehicles. Suggestion was made to educate the public as to parking correctly. Question as to whether the section washed out can be reinforced.

D. Balbaugh referred to the June 6 minutes which asked for Plaunt Transportation to be represented when working with the engineers to repair the ramp. He would like to see that happen.

B. Akright said that there is a life vest loaner program that was started last year. He questioned what happened to the vests and, in relation to the Covid-19 situation, would we want to continue the program, i.e., cleaning of vests. L. Phillips will talk with the Coast Guard to see if the program is still viable.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Joan Schroka said that the telephone conference call has blacked out most of the conversations. D. Akright indicated that the original phone had died and a regular telephone was being used. A new system is on order.

George Takala wanted a quick update on what is being done now and long term to have the ramp able to get the heavier trucks on the boat. L. Phillips said there would be something from the engineers by the end of the week. C. Plaunt said if everything fell into place, it would still be a month before the ramp would be usable. Discussion regarding what weight can be used on the South ramp currently being used. Curt said the quickest way to get information on the correct

way to decide this would be to call a former employee of Durocher. Curt said he would be satisfied with whatever this person decides is the best way to proceed. L. Phillips will make the call.

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to adjourn the meeting at 12 Noon. Seconded by B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, M. Harrington, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski. Absent: P. Jahn. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by,

Betty Hutchinson
Recording Secretary