

BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION

REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES

October 10, 2020

Bois Blanc Township Hall via Teleconference

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Members Present: Bill Akright, Don Balbaugh, Richard Berger, Paul Jahn, Chris Suchner, Tom Wybranowski, Mike Harrington. Also present: Larry Phillips, Harbormaster, Joe Fitzgerald, Deputy, Betty Hutchinson, Recording Secretary, Cliff Bloom, Township lawyer.

Motion made by B. Akright to approve Minutes of September 12, 2020, as presented. Second by C. Suchner. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, P. Jahn, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski, M. Harrington. **Motion carried.**

Report by Harbormaster: L. Phillips reviewed a document regarding the possibility of increasing the load on the North Ramp, as limited loads are being carried on the ramp. Garbage trucks will be coming over this week and taking half loads after being weighed. There is still an issue with the rubber bumpers as they are below water level so someone has to get underwater to unscrew the bolts.

At this point the meeting was interrupted by a brief power outage. At the same time, it was brought to the Commission's attention that callers to the teleconference were not able to get in as the incorrect phone number had been posted.

Motion made by D. Balbaugh to adjourn for five (5) minutes to try to get callers the correct telephone number (10:41 a.m.). Second by C. Suchner. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Akright, D. Balbaugh, R. Berger, P. Jahn, C. Suchner, T. Wybranowski, M. Harrington. **Motion carried.**

Meeting recalled to order by Chairman, Mike Harrington, at 10:58 a.m.

L. Phillips continued his report. The handicap sign has been received and will be installed. Boat traffic has been down due to the time of year. He is looking at the harbor closing for the year. D. Balbaugh will begin sometime in November. The bubblers will also be placed.

OLD BUSINESS

Development of Cheboygan River Property. T. Wybranowski said we should start applying for grant money for property development. We need to hire an engineering firm, create a Five-Year Plan, Master Plan, Business Plan, and Mission Statement. There is a committee, members consisting of Connie Riopelle, Jessie LaPorte, Diane Akright, Don Balbaugh, Paul Jahn, and Tom Wybranowski overseeing the project. He read a letter from Sharon Lange, Cheboygan Economic Development Corporation Chair, introducing herself and offering assistance for any projects. The committee will be working through the winter on this project.

Development of West End Property. The property is called Bright Waters Park. There is \$100,000 to develop the park but no money has been spent. T. Wybranowski thought that the two-year deadline for using the money will be extended due to Covid-19. The property also must be surveyed and marked.

NEW BUSINESS

Preparation for Membership for the 2021 Harbor Commission. M. Harrington indicated the necessity for members to send a letter to the Township Board indicating the desire to serve. Once appointed, membership would be for a four-year term. Looking at the number of things the Commission needs to do, he said that he would like to see work done through the winter rather than taking a break between November and May, as is usually done. Advising the Township Board and staying in contact with Plaunt Transportation are tasks that need to be done. T. Wybranowski would like to see someone from Plaunt Transportation at the meetings if at all possible. Ryan McLaren indicated that he would like to see all attending wearing masks and following the 6-foot social distance mandate.

Comments from Members of the Harbor Commission

T. Wybranowski asked for clarification regarding the rubber bumpers and L. Phillips indicated they have to find a way to get to the bolts underwater. Fritz Meldrum indicated that he would sponsor the equipment to get this job done. Curt Plaunt said that all the bolts are at Plaunt Transportation.

Public Comment:

Ryan McLaren spoke regarding the comment about the Plaunt Transportation members attending Commission meetings. He is not comfortable with the fact that masks are not being worn and social distancing and numbers of people allowed is not being followed at the meetings. M. Harrington said he realized that the mandates were not being followed and has changed the meeting space to the Wagner Room, with spaces marked off and masks required. Ryan also said that the boat is in Cheboygan at 10:30 and, depending on the number of crew available, someone is not always able to be on the Island.

Cliff Bloom asked why there is a large list waiting for mooring at the dock. Is the issue money or space? The issue is space, and M. Harrington said it is one of the things the Commission should look at next year. He said that there has always been a question with the Corps of Engineers and dredging, but with the high water, it may be possible to expand the space.

Curt Plaunt indicated his concern for the priorities being listed by the Harbor Commission. One of the long-term projects for the dock area was to develop the east break wall and also develop more finger piers for 30-50 boats. Since the priorities are now the Cheboygan and West End properties, the dock development seems to be on the back burner. He is concerned that things will not be done until something breaks.

Next meeting will be November 14, 2020, at 10:30 a.m. in the Wagner Room.

Motion made by R. Berger to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 a.m. Second by P Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: B. Aright, D. Albaugh, R. Berger, P. Jahn, T. Baranowski, C. Sucher, M. Harrington. **Motion carried.**

Submitted by,

Betty Hutchinson
Recording Secretary