

**Bois Blanc Township  
Special Meeting  
October 28, 2017  
Bois Blanc Township Hall**

Meeting was called to order by Township Treasurer, Anne Kennedy at 11:00 am.

Township Board Members present were: Louise Sullivan, Tom Wybranowski and Anne Kennedy

Absent: Brent Sharpe, Diane Akright

Parks and Recreation Committee members present: Kathy Brown, Mitch Begle.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Agenda as posted was:

- Parks and Recreation Survey results and Public Hearing. 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Public Hearing regarding “The Old Pines Dock” and whether the Bois Blanc Township should attempt to obtain title to it. 12:30 pm –

The meeting was given over to Kathy Brown to present the results of the Parks and Recreation Survey that was mailed to all property owners of Bois Blanc Township. Copies of the Survey Results are available at the Township Hall.

Parks and Recreation Survey Results and Public Hearing closed at 12:20 pm.

Short break

The Public Hearing regarding the “Old Pines Dock” began at 12:30 pm.

Township Board members present: Louise Sullivan, Tom Wybranowski, Diane Akright and Anne Kennedy.

The purpose of this hearing was to: discuss the results of the “Pines Dock” questionnaire that was sent to all taxpayers in the Point aux Pins and Pointe aux Pins 1<sup>st</sup> Addition subdivisions; to hear their sentiments, concerns and questions; to hear the sentiments, concerns and questions of the general Bois Blanc Island public; and to explain why the Township would consider seeking ownership of the “Old Pines Dock”

Results of the “Pines Dock” questionnaire are available at the Township Hall. Contact the Township Hall for a recording of the meeting.

Briefly, a majority (38 of 55) of the respondents are willing to give up their ownership and assign them to the Bois Blanc Township for future disposition of the dock. The Pines dock is a beloved land mark on the Island and its deterioration is prompting that decisions be made concerning its future. The “Old Dock” which has been a gathering place for Islanders for years is succumbing to the elements. The Township Board has been asked by many Island citizens, “What is the Township going to do about this unsafe situation.” Without ownership to the dock, the Township has no legal right to do anything. Because of Islander’s concerns, the Township Board is considering obtaining ownership of the Old Dock and a small radius around it. Cliff Bloom (TWP Attorney) spoke explaining the rationale and process of obtaining the title. He and the Board continually reiterated that no decisions would be made at this meeting as to what would happen to the dock once ownership is obtained and that nothing can be done

by the Township Board until ownership is transferred to it. Many public concerns were voiced by both the current owners and other users of the dock regarding the pros and cons of its disposition. Three emails and one letter were circulated through the audience. They were correspondence submitted by Mary Ellen Landshulz, Sally Sperry, Rex Lamb and Tony Babcock expressing their views on this issue.

#### **Some Key Points and Questions asked:**

- **What is the Townships motivation for seeking ownership of the Pines Dock:** This spring the Pines Dock had deteriorated to a point where many Islanders were concerned that it was becoming dangerous and approached the Township with requests to “do something”. The only way the Township has any authority over the Pines dock is if the township gains ownership.
- **Those who own property in the Pines subdivision own the Pines dock and beach in common.** A survey was sent to every taxpayer in the Pines subdivision to seek their desires, thoughts and opinions about whether the Township should take ownership of the dock and what should be done with it. 55 responses out of 107 mailings were received. A majority of those, 38, thought the Township should take ownership of the dock. A majority, 37, rated the importance of preserving the dock as very high.
- This hearing is only to determine the public’s thoughts, desires and opinions regarding the Pines dock and will help the township Board determine whether to proceed with seeking ownership of the Pines dock or not. If the Township obtains ownership of the Pines dock, there will be another hearing to decide what the next step will be.
- **Does the Township have pre-conceived ideas about how it’s going to develop the dock and beach around it?** The purpose of this hearing and other hearings we have concerning the Pines dock is to determine what the Islanders want.
- **Can we vote on this?** According to Township Attorney, Cliff Bloom, this issue can’t be legally voted on. Even if we could, there are less than 200 registered voters in Bois Blanc Township. Many summer residents vote elsewhere.
- **Question:** The deed to my property at the Pines includes Beach Park which encompasses the dock. If the Township takes over the dock and part of the beach, does this devalue my property?

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm

Those in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Survey and Public Hearing**

Lani White  
John Maynard  
Cliff Bloom  
Michael White  
Tom Bach  
Myrna Westcott  
Thomas Lower  
Suzette Cooley-Sanborn  
Misty Sibbald  
Mike Harrington  
Tom Wybranowski  
Anne Kennedy  
Mitch Begle  
Kathy Brown  
Louise Sullivan  
Diane Akright  
Dan Reynolds

**Pines Dock Public Hearing**

Brandon Schlund  
Misty Sibbald  
Mike Harrington  
Louise Sullivan  
Lani White  
Jerry & Lisa Sears  
Carol Blundy  
Anne Kennedy  
Cliff Bloom  
Dave Manges  
Kitty Lower  
Kathy Brown  
Myrna Westcott  
Thomas Lower  
Michael J. White  
Julie Maynard  
Suzette Cooley-Sanborn  
Mike Harrington  
Tony Antonetti  
Terri Antonetti  
John Maynard  
Tom Bach  
Dan Reynolds

Tom Wybranowski  
Diane Akright  
Mitch Begle

Submitted by

Anne Kennedy

