

**BOIS BLANC TOWNSHIP HARBOR COMMISSION  
MINUTES  
July 9, 2022  
Bois Blanc Township**

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

**Members Present**, Don Balbaugh, Paul Jahn, Carl Miller, Tom Wybranowski. Also Present: Larry Phillips, Betty Hutchinson, Cliff Bloom, Ryan McClaren. Absent: Brent Canup, Richard Berger, Chris Suchner.

Pledge of Allegiance

**Motion** made by Tom Wybranowski to accept the minutes of June 11, 2022, as presented. Second by Paul Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Balbaugh, C. Miller, Paul Jahn, T. Wybranowski, Nays: None. Absent: B. Canup, R. Berger, C. Suchner. **Motion carried.**

**Harbormaster:** L. Phillips said traffic has been good with much transient traffic during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Still waiting receipt of rings and light.

He also mentioned that the flag has a rip in it. We could get a stronger, double reinforced flag, but the manufacturer is in a production freeze. The current flag could be repaired but the more its repaired, the more it would be shortened. Tom Lower suggested buying the cheapest flag and more of them.

Question asked regarding when to fly flag at half mast. The Governor decides, and there is an app that informs when it is supposed to be lowered.

Larry said he is having a problem with Robeidick finishing the ripwrap/parking lot job and would like support from the Harbor Commission and Township Board. He suggested paying the company for what they've done and move on to somebody else. Don will check with them and get back to Larry.

**Motion** made by Carl Miller that if the Harbor Commission doesn't have a firm commitment from Robeidick to satisfactorily place the stone prior to July 20, the Harbor Commission will recommend to the Township Board they hire somebody else. Second by Paul Jahn. Roll call vote: Ayes: D. Balbaugh, C. Miller, P. Jahn, T. Wybranowski. Nays: None. Absent: B. Canup, R. Berger, C. Suchner. **Motion carried.**

D. Balbaugh asked if we could get a buoy where you come off the launch ramp. Larry said yes.

T. Lower suggested putting the stairs behind the little hut back in as the water is getting low.

D. Balbaugh said once the rings are in, he would measure and make a holder for them. He would like to have them placed on the opposite side they are now so they can be seen better. R.

McClaren said that regulations say that holders for ring buoys have to have official racks for them. Don said they will look into it.

**Finance:** No report.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**River Development Update:** No Report

**Update Brightwater Park:** No Report

## **OLD BUSINESS**

There is no progress on men's restroom. Don checked on having it lined but it can't be done. It has been partially pumped. Ryan said he noticed that there is an access block on the back which has been displaced and water is running into it. He pushed it back somewhat but its still leaking.

**Grand Updates:** Discussion regarding how grants work. If there is money in an account, there is less money granted. Emergence accounts do not affect grant requests. Tom W. will check with the Township as to how the money can be or has been allocated.

### **Comments from Harbor Commission Members**

There will probably be a Commission member resigning. When the letter of resignation is received, the Commission will look for a new member.

Cliff Bloom asked Ryan what the figures are on ridership for the ferry. Ryan said June is up but have to take into consideration that the ferry was in dry dock in April/May for a period. This caused much traffic in June catching up. July is up, but it can't be compared to last year as they were down in July last year due to the ferry being repaired. He said they think they will not be as busy as last year because more people seem to be staying for longer periods of time due to the gas prices.

Don asked to make a comment re Plaunt Transportation about the idea that they make so much money. When there are complaints about the fares, people don't take into account issues like the down time for the inspection and repairs on the engine this year Maintenance, gas, and overhead take a large chunk out of revenue, also. Larry commended the company on the time spent to repair the engine this month. As soon as parts were received, they worked overnight to get the ferry running the next day to get customers where they wanted to be as soon as possible.

Tom W. asked about how gas cans are permitted on the boat. The Coast Guard regulates that there can be two 5 gallon cans allowed in a vehicle, not on the deck. One could also have a 6 gallon gas can and a propane tank in a vehicle, not on the deck.

Ryan said he has been asked if there will be a handicap ramp for the south finger pier. There is one but it won't work in that area. He also asked if the door in the dock house will be fixed.

Larry said it needs a door sweep. Tom W. said there is a mechanical door sweep that will move when the door is opened. Larry will look into it.

Ryan said there is a mounting bracket broken for the catwalk on north ramp.

### **Public Comment:**

Tom Lower said the skid pier section of walkway on the Thompson Lake dock is sinking. Now that its moved, there is a gap.

Ryan mentioned there is the usual geese problem on the dock and causeway. Phil Radala is working constantly on it, but its too much to keep up with.

Next meeting will be Saturday, August 13, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

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

Submitted by,

Betty Hutchinson  
Recording Secretary