

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION

June 21, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Jim Mrozinski at 7:00pm. Present were Roger Burger, Denny Blue, Steve Brooks, Frank English, Chuck May, Jim Simons and guest Arnie Johnson.

The minutes of the April 19, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion by English and second by Blue, with all voting in favor.

Simons reported that the Lake Manager surveyed the lake on June 19, 2018 and also at that time treated milfoil in the Easy Street area. Jim also said that the Township is testing additional areas of Portage Lake for e-coli this year.

English passed out reports, from the Michigan Outdoor News, that addressed the grass carp and the bigheaded and silver carp issues concerning the Great Lakes. Grass Carp have been found in Lake Erie and its tributaries. Five bighead or silver carp have been found in the Great Lakes system. Three fish were found in Lake Erie and two in tributaries with access to southern Lake Michigan. Indiana has constructed an earthen berm at the 756 acre Eagle Marsh which allows water flow but hinders carp movement. The article also stated that the filter-feeding carp require rich sources of nutrients, and the closer the fish get to metropolitan Chicago the cleaner – and less hospitable they'll find the waters. At the present time the carp are being harvested for dog food and fertilizer.

Burger reported that over Memorial Day weekend there was a boat wash in the Village park launch area. The bathrooms are complete except for floor coating, partitions and faucets, but they are open and may be used. The Village has also begun e-coli testing at the swim beach.

Brooks reported that the work on the channel is progressing smoothly. They work from 7:00am to 7:00pm Monday thru Friday.

May reported that the Corps has received an additional appropriation of \$52 million which means they received \$158 million this year. This additional money was used for 24 harbors with 20 of these being recreational harbors.

Blue reported that Vince Magnini and Felicia Fairchild, of the Michigan Port Collaborative, met with local people on May 14th. They were impressed with the response to their survey. There were 1,300 responses to a local survey that helped in completing the MPC survey. Denny said that the number 1 priority was a streetscape for Onekama. He also said that this year there are 50 cruise ships operating on the Great Lakes and next year they expect an additional 18. These ships carry 20 to 400 passengers. Blue believes these ships will be an asset to the economy of the Great Lakes and could benefit Onekama in the future. The MPA people will be revisiting Onekama in the near future.

Mrozinski shared the minutes from the Portage Harbor Breakwater Repairs Project Partnering Session which was held on June 13, 2018. This was a very good meeting and it outlines the duty of all parties. Jim also said that the lighthouse base, at the DNR launch site, is in need of painting. It was suggested that we have a work session to take care of this problem. He also reviewed the recent PLA meeting where the Harbor Commission was awarded the Distinguished Organization Service Award for our work on obtaining funding for the rebuilding of the Portage Lake Channel Structure with improvements.

New business....none

Discussion.....none

Public comment....none

Next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Simons