

Portage Lake Harbor Commission Special Meeting
July 29, 2021

Meeting called to order 10:05 am, Onekama Township Hall.

Attendees- Jim Simons, Denny Blue, Frank English, Chuck May.

Meeting Purpose: 1) to review feedback and overall evaluation of the channel Celebration on 7-17-21;

2) attend to open issues; 3) discuss Commission's ongoing priority; and 4) prepare for membership and officer votes at next meeting.

Feedback on the Celebration has been very favorable, with both the Corps, and Mrozinski family commenting how everything was so well done and very sincere. Comments from elsewhere in the community have been favorable as well. The Harbor Commission thanks the many who volunteered to help make this a memorable celebration.

Open items from the Celebration include 1) how to get Simons compensated for the out of pocket cost (\$2300) of minting the commemorative coins, 2) how to market the balance of coins after the planned distribution to school kids, 3) need for "No-Wake" signage at the Portage Lake end of the Channel and 4) improvement needed to the path leading on to the South Channel pier[revetment]

Regarding cost of the coins: it was the unanimous position of the Harbor Commission that Simons should be reimbursed as a priority. Ed Bradford Onekama Township Treasurer, was in attendance during this discussion and laid out the process for quickly compensating Simons, and Simons will initiate that process.

Regarding marketing of the coins, in addition to help from local businesses, one step is to have a table at the car show in the park on Saturday of Onekama Day's. Commissioner's will man the table from 9am till 2pm.

Regarding the "No Wake" signage and path on to the South pier head[revetment] Chuck May is to discuss with the Corp. as to the responsibility (US Army Corp, Coast Guard, or Harbor Commissioners?)

Discussion as to our top priority looking forward centered on the likely need for the channel to be dredged again as early as 2024(5-year span). Therefore, it is important that the Commission continue building communication and relationships with the Corp, Michigan DNR, and both State and Federal legislators to ensure funding is available and allocated to meet this need. It was agreed that this priority for dredging should be on the agenda for all future meetings.

On the subject of membership and officers for the Harbor Commission, Denny Blue has submitted his resignation effective with this meeting. After serving for almost 14 years (since the founding of the Harbor Commission in 2007), Denny's leadership and wisdom will be greatly missed by the team. With acclamation, all board members give a real shout out of thanks and best to Denney! This vacancy and the election of officers will be addressed at the next Commission meeting.

In preparation for the next meeting, we ask the Onekama Township Board to Confirm Jim Simons as the Chair of the Harbor Commission for the next 12 months in accordance with the by-laws.

Next Harbor Commission Meeting will be September 30th, 2021 7pm, Onekama Township Hall.