

Portage Lake Harbor Commission

09-30-21

Members present: Kevin Hughes, Chuck May, Roger Burger, Jim Simons, Steve Brooks.

Members absent: Frank English.

Minutes of July 21 approved.

Kevin Hughes: Great Lakes Basin Report: all current indications show that the Threat of Asian Carp entering Lake Michigan is unlikely due in part to the clarity of the water since Carp need brackish and silty environment, thanks in part to the after effects of the Zebra Mussels. Kevin suggested that we invite Robert Gezon to join the Commission, as he has a pivotal contribution to Portage Lake since he is the owner of Portage Point Inn.

Chuck May: Path onto the South side pier, is a concern for any unstable walker. The commission should erect a sign stating: Warning!!all who choose to walk along this pier must be aware that it is dangerous and should proceed at their own risk!

After much discussion this item is being sent to the Planning commission/Parks Commission of Onekama Township. Any improvement will need ADA consideration, and currently The Army Corp Of Engineers is clear in stating that the walkway on both piers is the responsibility of the Township and the US Coast Guard.

No-Wake signage has received mixed signals from the Corp. At this time, The Army Corp Of Engineers, are asking us to seek input from the Coast Guard.

Kayak Launch is in progress as we speak at the DNR site North West Part of Portage Lake.

Jim Simons: Coins-Township has still not reimbursed him for the purchase of Commemorative coins. The Township has collected funds from different agencies for the 150 celebration yet has not reimbursed Jim.

Upcoming places to sell coins: October 9th-Fall Festival in Park. October 23rd, 150th Gayla at PPI.

Discussion: What will the Future hold for the Harbor Commission...In 2023-2024 we will need to lobby our Federal Legislators to dredge the channel. Contact Inland Water Ways commission to get support for other channel projects and restore local ecosystems which currently are over fished or over chemicalized preventing fish from breeding. Try to get more business minded members to be more supportive of encouraging development around Portage Lake. Next Meeting to Go Over Harbor Commission By-laws and compare it with by-laws from other harbor commissions around Lake Michigan and Lake Huron. Some local Fishermen have voiced concerns over use of Chemicals which affect growth of local species.

Old business: /New business: Access to pier heads due to inquiry of township property owners. Item has been sent to township board by current chairman of Portage Lake Harbor Commission.

Assignments: Steve Brooks to check with the Coast Guard commander at Manistee to provide signage to both ends of Portage Lake Channel starting Spring 2022.

Kevin Hughes to ask Robert Gezon. Owner of PPI. To see if he would join Harbor Commission

Jim Simons to get volunteers to sell coins, Steve, Frank, Chuck and Jim. Jim to ask Township to look into ways of accessing the South and North side of pier.

Discussion concerning future... 2024 Dredging harbor, 2022 fighting invasive water species. Collaborating with other harbors to gain public awareness of the plight of Recreational harbor needs. Signage to reflect caution when walking on both South and North Piers of Portage Lake

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