

**PORTER TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 517, UNION, MI 49130
OPEN MEETING MINUTES**

Chairman: Dave Nagy
Vice Chairman: Ron Grotovsky
Secretary: Christine Northrup
Members: Rick Russwurm
Patrick Williams
ZBA Representative: Tom Robbins
Township Trustee: Leard Wylie

August 17, 2016 6:00 PM EST

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Nagy at 6:00 PM. Role was called following the Pledge of Allegiance with only member Russwurm absent.

Motion made by Grotovsky, with support by Robbins, to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Secretary Northrup explained the typographical corrections for the June 15, 2016 meeting minutes as received from Atty. Seeber. Motion was then made by Nagy, with support by Williams, to approve the minutes with the aforementioned corrections. Motion carried.

A letter dated June 20, 2016, received from and signed by the Directors of the Birch Lake Homeowner's Association which is a request to expedite the adoption of the Pier Ordinance prohibiting dredging lake bottoms and prohibiting permanent piers in Porter Township.

No Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items were introduced.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Nagy acknowledged received many verbal communications from residents ranging from those who currently own Bladder Boats to those who object to their use on our township lakes. He also accepted a list presented by a resident of Long Lake which includes the names and addresses of property owners who object to these boats as destructive and dangerous to people and property. The planning commission is addressing these and other public concerns but is only in the information gathering stage at this time. Member Pat Williams reported that his investigation revealed a No-Wake Ordinance (#40.000) which applies to channels on Shavehead, Long & Coverdale Lake and Baldwin Lake. Information was also gathered regarding the tracking of phosphorus levels and increases to wake damage without increasing the size of the wake from the use of the excessive horsepower and weight of Bladder Boats. The State regulations regarding Riparian Rights should be carefully studied along with

additional contact with the Dept. of Natural Resources regarding any environmental impact. Member Pat Williams requested in writing that a Special Meeting to be held to further discuss this serious concern. The planning commission will schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2016 at 7:00 PM in an effort to gather additional information from state and local officials, local environmental experts, and those residents who may have knowledge regarding the use of these boats on our public waterways.

The discussion regarding the need for an ordinance to control Permanent Piers on Porter Township Lake has been tabled until such time as Rick Russwurm, absent from this meeting, can lead the discussion to simplify his proposed ordinance.

In reply to the Zoning board of Appeals letter requesting a review of the Accessory Building Ordinance (111.508), Tom Robbins as ZBA representative along with assistance from Ron Grotovsky, have studied this matter. Their investigation concluded that the current size limit of 1,200 sq.ft. is compatible with the minimum size restriction for a house in residential zoning. Robbins will report to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding this determination. However, the additional items mentioned in the letter which referred to new use requests was not addressed at this time.

Review of the Sign Ordinance as requested by the Porter Board will be studied at the next scheduled meeting due to time constraints.

NEW BUSINESS

.None.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Wylie with support by Williams. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Northrup, Secretary

Porter Township Planning Commission