

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION

April 20, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Jim Mrozinski at 7:06pm. Present were Frank English, Chuck May and Jim Simons.

The minutes of the February 16, 2016 meeting were approved with the a motion by May and second by English, with all voting in favor.

Simons reported that the lake survey will be conducted in mid June with treatment to follow in either late June or mid to late July. He also said that the Invasive Committee was looking into ways to control thin leaf cattail. There is a large stand of thin leaf and the east end of Portage Lake.

English reported that per the Great Lakes Basin Report there is a reward of one million dollars for anyone who comes up with a plan to control Asian Carp. The suggestion may come from anywhere in the world and not just the Great Lakes area. Also the report said that all of the ocean going ships entering the Great Lakes had their ballasts inspected this past year.

May reported that the April 4th Corps “Shallow Draft” stakeholders meeting was attended by the staffs of Senators Peters, Stabenow and Huizenga, as well as himself, by phone. And again this year the same story was given – a lot of needs but NO MONEY. A letter dated April 3, 2017 was sent to the Director of Management and Budget and was signed by 13 of our Michigan Federal Congressional members. This letter listed 10 harbors in Michigan that are in need of dredging.

May also said that Ways and Means Committee member Mike Kelly of Pennsylvania and T&I Committee Ranking Member Peter DeFazio of Oregon are introducing a bill to Unlock the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund which will provide funding to the Corps of Engineers for maintaining all federally maintained ports.

Mrozinski reported that Melissa Bosman had e-mailed him saying that the 50% drawings, for our infrastructure repair, will be reviewed by the design team next week and sent to us for our review. She is hopeful that the final drawings will be completed by the end of May and that repair work to our infrastructure will begin this year.

Jim wrote a letter to the MBIA (Michigan Boating Industries Association) asking for their help in acquiring funding for dredging and infrastructure repairs for the Great Lakes. He received a reply from Nicki Polan, Executive Director of the MBIA, saying that this issue is at the top of their list for their trip to Washington in May for the American Boating Congress. The MBIA had its annual meeting on April 11th where there was a lengthy discussion on the lack of Federal support for Great Lakes Harbors.

Mrozinski and May have been asked to be on the (5) year plan committee and everyone on the Harbor Commission is glad to have the opportunity to be included, as we feel the plan should include information on the channel which is vital to the economic well being of the Township.

New business....none

There was no public comment.

Next meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2017

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Simons