

HARBOR COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 12th, 2023
@ 4:30 P.M. City Hall in the Council Chambers

1.) The 1st 2023 meeting of the Harbor Commission was called to order by Chairman Jim Viestenz.

2.) Roll Call: Nancy Rhode, Steve Stock, Todd Trepanier, Jim Viestenz, and non-voting member Paul Lukas

Absent: Dick Olson

Also Present: Mayor Panetti; John Bostedt Director of Forestry, Parks and Rec.; Administrator Brittney Bickel; Jason Stewart, Pat Trepanier, Bob LeBreck

3.) **Rhode called a motion for approval of Agenda; Trepanier issued a second. (4 Ayes)**

4.) **Approval of Meeting Minutes from 11/9/2022 was placed by Trepanier with a Viestenz second. (4 Ayes)**

5.) **Public Input:** Stewart brought to the meeting concern of docking and loading big boats, especially those from out-of-town. Our police force won't be involved with "power loading" issues: the practice of these big boats is a menace to our well-maintained launch and dock. Most places have a fine for "power loading". The Dock Masters are our police force on site. Lukas added that fiberglass boats too are having difficulty getting in: Bostedt states that docks have been lowered since high water last year so that can't be the problem. Lukas followed with the fact that these boaters are not backing their trailers deep enough. It was felt that we should replace the sign, and perhaps add a fine for "power loads" to be enforced by the Harbor Masters. Lukas also suggested the dock be moved further down in the water. A catwalk could be added off the back of the sea wall, he suggested, for senior fishermen. Finally adding shack access to the break wall next winter was thought possible, as in the past.

The Commission brought up reestablishing a dock @ Holtwood, however the 2023 City Budget barely maintains the minimum upkeep. Stock wondered if we are ever going to reestablish a dock there. The Committee discussed that Holtwood get a grant for a dock through the OCEDC assistance. How about if a dock were donated? If we have a way to mount it, that would be possible. Viestenz suggested we combine it with a kayak launch...

6.) Correspondence:

Live Harbor Cam Views total 12,040 between Feb. 1 and March 22. Director Bostedt reported that there remains room for 6 spots on the site. Viestenz suggested advertising our hits as a marketing opportunity: the gas stations could benefit by advertising there. OCEDC could also put out some P.R. as to its availability.

7.) Discussion/Recommendation/Action on the Following:

a.) Future Dredging (South Shore Break Wall) Issues a.), b.), and c.) were presented by Viestenz who sought stats on the last dredging project from Administrator Bickel. He learned that at that time the project ran a little over 1 million dollars in 2014. We got a grant for which we paid 20%. (We are now looking at possibly 200+ thousand dollars.) It was thought that we could save by creating an area for the dredging water placement and using a spoils area that already exists, avoiding trucking costs. Adm. Bickel will seek some grants. (Note handout and webinar this Friday.)

b.) Grants for Dredging–

c.) Great Lakes Shallow Draft Recreational Harbor Meeting (Webinar: 4/14/2023 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. @ City of Oconto Council Chambers)

It was determined that we need to inform the public of the issue and its costs. Negatively, our permits have expired. In a meeting with the DNR we can present Oconto's case on why we are committed to

the project. Viestenz has found a marketing person who would create the presentation without City cost.

d.) ***The Three-Year Harbor Development Statement of Intentions & Resolutions***, handed out at the meeting, was discussed: John Bostedt will check to see if we should include that we have commercial fishermen and manufacturing thereby Trepanier motioned to approve our ***Statement of Intentions & Resolutions***. Mayor J. Panetti called second. (M/C)

John Bostedt will see that the Three-Year Harbor Development Statement of Intentions and Resolutions is sent to the DOT.

e.) ***The 2023 Mooring Permit*** handed out at the meeting and viewed. It was determined that with Hi Seas, as presented, Stock would place a motion with a second of Trepanier. (M/C)

f.) ***2023 Harbor Masters*** included 2 applications: Joe and Willie will return. We need a 3rd Harbor Master as there is a volley of weekends between Masters.

g.) ***2023 Seasonal Passes Sold @ North Shore Bait Company Last Month***: Lukas reports 15: 13 non-resident, 1 senior, 1 local. He brought up Restrictions for Guides: besides their license, \$150 - \$165 can be added. They must show proof of insurance per year and Guide paperwork, as well as what was caught and how many individuals were in the boat. **Harbor needs to keep this in awareness for 2024.**

8.) Board Report:

a.) ***Marketing & Advertisement***— Director Bostedt stated that both the Discovery Guide and Harbor Cam have been paid.

b.) ***City Boat Ramps***— Docks have been placed.

c.) ***7 Fishing Tournaments/Special Events***—

1. AIM- May 14, 2023
2. GREEN BAY WALLEYE - May 21st, 2023
3. ESCAPE REALITY WALLEYE OPEN - July 15, 2023
4. MWC - July 21 - 22, 2023
5. LARRY BEHNKE SR. MEMORIAL WALLEYE SHOOTOUT - August 5th
6. SHEBOYGAN WALLEYE CLUB BATTLE ON THE BAY- August 20th, 2023
7. AIM- August 25, 26 WI STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

NOTE: 2024 NWT - June 13 - 14

d.) ***Park(s) Inspection Report*** [John Bostedt] will continue after the season begins.

NOTE: Harbor Masters start Monday.

9.) **Stock called motion for approval of *Accounts Payable* from November 5th, 2022 through April 4th, 2023 in the amount of \$14,156.90. Rhode called second. (M/C)**

10.) ***Revenue & Expenditure Guidelines*** were seen as adequate for the month.

11.) Next Meeting Date/Time: Wednesday, May 10 @ 4:30 p.m.

Agenda Items: "Power Loading" starting boats issue

Sea wall platform

Harbor Cam promotion for open sites

12.) **Rhode summoned adjournment @ 5:58 p.m. Trepanier witnessed second. (M/C)**

Minutes submitted by Susan K. Seidl