

**VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM
MARINAS AND MOORINGS MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2024 – 8:00 AM
9996 Water Street- Ephraim Village Hall**



Action Items:

Thorp moved, B. Nelson seconded to approve the minutes of August 7, 2024, as presented, all ayes.
Motion carried.

Thorp moved, B. Nelson seconded to recommend to the Village Board to investigate reducing the geese population within the Village at the Board level, all ayes. Motion carried.

The consensus of the Marinas and Moorings committee members present was to continue the 2025 rate review in October relative to the 2025 budget. The committee also agreed to proceed with obtaining estimate information for the shoreside slips at Anderson Dock (maintenance versus re-design) and redecking at least two (2) slips at the Firehouse Marina this fall.

Thorp moved, Plansky seconded to adjourn at 9:23 AM, all ayes. Motion carried.

Present: John Held, Bruce Nelson, BD Thorp, Robert Plansky, and Tim Nelson - Chair.

Guests: Frederic Schmidt (Online)

Staff: Brent Bristol - Village Administrator/Harbormaster, Justin MacDonald - Maintenance Manager/Fire Chief, and Kim Roberts - Deputy Clerk.

- 1. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by T. Nelson at 8:00 AM.
- 2. Changes to the agenda:** There were no changes.
- 3. Visitors' Comments:** There were no comments.
- 4. Approval of the previous minutes:**
Thorp moved, B. Nelson seconded to approve the minutes of August 7, 2024, as presented, all ayes.
Motion carried.
- 5. Update regarding the Clean Marina Program:**
B. Nelson updated the committee that the Village of Ephraim had been approved for the Clean Marina Program. The approval will be renewed in five (5) years- 2029.
T. Nelson thanked B. Nelson for his efforts. The Clean Marina Program will be good for the Village and the Marinas.
- 6. Discussion and consideration regarding navigational buoys:**
Bristol explained that permitting related to the navigational buoys will wait for a future conversation with Mike Neal. The committee can review the permitting documents by referring to the August meeting packet. He updated the committee that he has worked with Stantec so that they can proceed to update the meets and bounds information into GPS coordinates. He spoke about consolidating the plat map with the bulkhead overlay, an aerial view, and adding line of sight with points of interest.
A discussion was held regarding navigational buoys. The committee discussed the type of navigational buoys that were permitted (slow no wake, channel markers, swim areas (Village/Condo Association), mooring area, and the park pump out. Held noted that should there be issues with exceptions, the Peninsula State Park – Nicolet Beach no wake buoys were all placed well beyond two hundred feet (200'). T. Nelson noted that the channel had more permits for green channel markers than red. The committee should use that information to try and coordinate a plan of what we would like to see in the channel. T. Nelson added that he would like to see the hazard markers removed between the channel and the shore. Those markers seem to indicate that it is safe everywhere in that area but where the markers are located; which is not the case. He stressed that he would like to see standardization of the markers within the channel. Bristol proposed a draft that showed what buoys we have permits for and another with what is actually out there. T. Nelson added that the rock pile is missing a permit from the DNR.

7. Discussion regarding geese problems on marina grounds:

Held explained that the geese population is all over the shoreline especially the beach and the marina. He counted eighty-four (84) in the area of the marina which results in one pound (1 lb) of goose excrement per animal. Fish Creek went through the process to minimize their goose population. He recommended obtaining the results of the process that was undertaken in Fish Creek.

A discussion was held regarding the geese problem within the Village. B. Nelson stated that he agreed the Village had a problem that can result in sanitary issues and the Village should explore solutions. Held noted that geese lose their flying feathers in June and July and are unable to fly. Bristol reviewed the process of geese removal as conducted by the USDA and permitted by the DNR. The removal process involved herding the geese into cages but first, a public informational hearing has to be conducted. Bristol stressed that the Board would need to be involved before the process could move forward, T. Nelson agreed that this would be a Board issue, the problem is not just a marina problem it is a Village-wide issue. Bristol provided details on the outcome achieved in Fish Creek. Sixty (60) to eighty (80) geese were trapped and removed. Fish Creek saw results and was pleased. They would recommend repeating the process, if necessary. The process is likely not to be a one-off project, it will likely need to be repeated. MacDonald noted that the City of Sturgeon Bay has undertaken geese removal for years and would provide a better baseline than Fish Creek. He suggested reaching out to the Municipal Services Director.

Thorp moved, B. Nelson seconded to recommend to the Village Board to investigate reducing the geese population within the Village at the Board level, all ayes. Motion carried.

8. Discussion regarding 2025 marina rates:

A discussion regarding marina rates for 2025 was held. The committee reviewed a comparison of marina rates from Door County municipal marinas. The committee discussed rates, expenses, upcoming projects, and reserve funds. Thorp noted that the Village had the cheapest transient rates and suggested raising transient rates 0.75¢ from \$1.75 to \$2.50 with a twenty-foot (20') minimum. Held concurred with Thorp. The committee discussed the unknown costs related to slip repair versus replacement at both marinas, the breakwater at Anderson Dock, dredging, and the Anderson Dock project (utility trench and other financial responsibilities related to the larger project).

The consensus of the Marinas and Moorings committee members present was to continue the 2025 rate discussion in October relative to the 2025 budget. The committee also agreed to proceed with obtaining estimate information for the shoreside slips at Anderson Dock (maintenance versus re-design) and redecking at least two (2) slips at the Firehouse Marina this fall.

9. New business for the next meeting:

- a. Removal and redecking of a minimum of two (2) floating finger piers at Firehouse Marina.
- b. 2025 Marina Rates.
- c. Dredging update.
- d. Update on Marina Waitlist.
- e. Estimate/information from Kahr regarding slip maintenance versus redesign.

The next meeting of the Marinas and Moorings Committee will take place on Wednesday, October 2, 2024, at 8:00 AM.

B. Nelson relayed a slip holder compliment of Assistant Harbormaster Reynolds. Reynolds got staff out of the office and available to assist slip holders and by doing so staff collectively improved the appearance of the marina. In sum, they were very pleased with the marina operations.

10. Adjournment:

Thorp moved, Plansky seconded to adjourn at 9:23 AM, all ayes. Motion carried.

Recorded by, Kim Roberts – Deputy Clerk