



FOREST TOWNSHIP MEETING MINUTES

Date and Time of Meeting: September 5, 2026 9:00 a.m.	
Present: Tim Holzkamm, Lynn Lindow, Barb Christiansen, Donna Waliczek, Karen Hefner Absent: Visitors: Steve Lindow, Jill Eisele, Shawn Anderson, Paul Dovre, Andy Van Dam, Connie Anwyl, Lee Boock, Kevin Joluk, Dawn Hanson, Payton Hanson, Matt Hanson, Jerry Schwitters, Lori Funfar, Todd Funfar, Dawn Schock, Kevin Phillip, Heather Thibert, Brooklyn Hanson, Evan Pederson, Karen Halbakken, Curt Hakbakken, Paul Lundquist, Monette Lundquist, Chelsie Cheney, Sheri Dosland, David Dosland, Rolf Christiansen, Kyle Depiesse, Alan Doster, Derek Lee, Carol Peterson, Betty Sondrol, Joel Lundquist, Bill Spartz, Joe Evans, Pat Sweeney, Mike Slette, Kurt Withnell, Mary Follet, Howard Bonem, Debbie Bonem, Tom Lorentzsen, Joel Schock, Andy Rogers, Justin Johnson, Anita Severson, Heather Seibert, Jim Severson, Deborah Bahn, Pat Seibert, Eva Severson	
Pledge of Allegiance / Visitor Sign in	
Introduction	Tim introduced a plan for the meeting. Plan for speakers to be limited to 3 minutes. Stated that the annual meeting introduced a concern about wake boats. Steps were taken to have the Planning Commission prepare a survey. Tim explained the process and the actions for future meetings regarding a wake boat ordinance. The town board answered questions when asked but these are not included in the public comments and no discussion by the board was done prior to the 11:00 adjournment of the meeting.
Public Comments	- Justin Johnson – Can you share what you hope for with this? - Matt Hanson – What do you hope for? Is there a reason the board wasn't more open in this at the beginning? Minutes haven't been posted correctly. Concerned about whether or not the township has the authority to ban WB. No WB owners contacted prior to the survey. The county said no to Pickeral Lake. The board should know this information before going forward. Who wrote the survey? The survey is biased. - Chelsie Cheney – Why does the survey include watercraft activity and WB? Why not just WB? Why was this verbiage included? I read that question and I thought of all watercraft activity. - Andy Rogers - What I just heard is that any recommendations will be aimed at all watercrafts. How do you allocate no response on the survey? - Dawn Schock – The survey is a tool to gather information. It's a way of understanding what people want. - Kurt Withnell - Expressed that out of 60 people attending the meeting there is a significant belief that the survey was not valid - Will there be any virtual option for meetings? - Justin Johnson - The township was established in 1979 for the purpose of reducing or preventing overdevelopment. It has evolved. I think it would be good for us to reflect, after the results, on what is the purpose of the board and do you all feel that you are operating in a consistent manner. - Mike Slette – Is there anything learned that what Pickeral Lake did when they got turned down at the county level? Could we have a better conversation around etiquette and safety – expectation of working together – not regulations - Curt Halbakken - The annual meeting approved the WB action by 17 for and 4 against – passed a motion for the board to do a survey about WB. I see that as a conflict when those people went to that meeting for one reason. I fee the result was very one sided. - Were there any other topics at the annual meeting such as regulating fireworks? Are there other topics the board has looked into other than wake surfing?

- Kurt Withnell - What you are doing will result in a lawsuit. Are you willing to pay for the cost of a law suit? It's all our tax dollars. I am totally against any legislation on this lake.
- Paul Lundquist – This is creating neighbor against neighbor, Matt is giving info to create a good policy. These boats are turning their music down and staying in the middle of the lake. We all pay taxes and we should all be able to do what we love.
- Dawn Schock – The only reason this issue is being raised is because someone is having an issue with it. This issue is there because of the environmental impact on our lake. We all want to have open access and we need to find a way to accommodate everyone's needs – Need good will with regulations. I am concerned about the environmental impacts of these boats.
- Anita Severson – Need to look at the studies because there is information out there. Fact, science, studies, keep emotions out of this.
- Heather Seibert - Only 1 to 2 WB are not causing an environmental issue on this lake.
- Michele ? - What was approved at the meeting in March?
- Justin Johnson - Survey did not look at environmental issues. The board's decision was based on the survey. Are you going to make your decisions based on science and environment or on the survey results.
- Mary Follett – The DNR must follow the science and take the environment into their decision. Other lakes around us, Big Sugar Bush, have been dealing with this for years.
- Kurt Withnell – Have other lakes used attorneys?
- Barb Christiansen – Big Sugar Bush Lake Association and the township has not pursued this. The lake association has put a sign out that boats coming in cannot use ballasts. They have been required to remove the sign per the DNR. The Bad Medicine Lake Assoc. has not addressed anything with WB's since 2019 except for creating the SEE Committee. I think things have improved since then.
- Mike Slette - Advise for clean waters and let science study. Water is still above the ordinary high-water line, Regulations means someone controls it. We are all in this together and we are all here to lake enjoyment
- Curt Halbakken - One third of respondents have not read the SEE committee rules. So how are you going to have people follow it. You're going to make more regulations and guidelines and you can even get this through.
- Jim Severson – Concerned about gathering info to make a recommendation along with this meeting, what other tools do you plan to use?
- Deborah Bahn - Does township need their own attorney? What does the township want?
- Paul Dovre – We have rules for setbacks/personal safety/speed. What we are talking about here today is about safety/security/environment. I get my grandchildren out of the way when WB waves. We need to come together to talk about it rather and going to court.
- Joel Lundquist - Long Lost Lake speed limit 10 miles per hour – how do they deal with this?
- Payton Hanson - Expect all people to use respect. Boats and swimmers and everyone should respect others.
- Karen Hefner – Is there any way to table this, put it out 2 years. This would also allow any landowners to deal with any negative issues. After two years if there are no reports, we can move forward and eliminate the need for restrictions.
- Pat Theibert -So disappointed why we are at this group. Look at how much there are in issues – People should police themselves. Disappointed that we are at this point.
- Justin Johnson - Any ideas from the group as to what regulations they would like to see.
- Curt Halbakken - Could we table – I make a motion to table the WB ordinance for 2 years. We could then wait to have more studies done. If we could make a 2 year table and have a better understanding of this, why wouldn't we? **Motion to table the WB ordinance process for 2 years made by Curt Halbakken.**
- Dawn Hanson – **Second All in Favor – 35 / Opposed – 11 / Non-binding motion passed.**
- Matt Hanson – What science is going to be used to make this decision and who is the expert on the board. What information will be used.
- Dawn Schock – Regarding the point of tabling it for 2 years, I think that will just increase the tension in the community rather than help it if we want police reports.
- Curt Halbakken – There are studies that have not been completed yet and it's significant to slow down and not jump into anything. We aren't in a hurry are we? We have a lot of opinions but we haven't backed it with science. If we table it, we can balance this out so they are more instinct with each other.

	• Anita Severson – A lot of studies have already been done in 2020 and 2022. The U of M study to study how human activities affect lakes and rivers and to provide practical science based information for lake management and policy makers. There is a lot that needs to be looked at. • Paul Lundquist – Justin asked earlier as to what kind of regulations people want to see for WBs. • Jim Eisele – I was swimming in lake working on raft – waves came and the raft hit him and knocked him unconscious – need to stay in center of lake and understand that the waves do cause damage to people and property. • Monette Lundquist – I have seen pontoon boats in center of lake can interfere with wake boats and require them to shift to go around. • Mike Slette – Is the SEE Committee and active committee? Lake association could help to post & make regulations & bring to the board • Dawn Schock – Is there some way to grandfather WB and possibly limit for future WB from coming on the lake? • Get it out in the open what you want. • Joel Schock - Strong recommendations/regulations can't be considered with current wake boats. Future WB could increase so we need to consider what the future of the sizes of boats. To deal with it now, could save a lot of bad feelings in the future. • Matt Hanson – What does the MN DNR recommend now. They recommend 200 feet and I think that is too close and I'm a WB owner. SEE committee says to stay in the middle – 500- 800 feet center – talk to people if there are any issues. Not involving WB owners in the beginning is what caused the problem. • Steve Lindow - MN does recommendations but does not set a distance – different studies say different things for distance. Currently they are coming up with 500 ft from shore (ski boat and WB) and 20 feet deep. Map on website that qualifies this area on Bad Medicine Lake. If we use that map, that might get rid of a lot of problems. • Monette Lundquist – Big fishing boats are also creating big waves. If you regulate WB are you going to start regulating something else? • Jerry Schwitters – I am totally against regulations. The SEE information should be a priority first. Slow down and let the industry do the research first. A lot of the WB owners are already doing this already. • Monette Lundquist – People don't know what the regulations are and with the resorts, how do you address that? • When this survey came out, it didn't specify have you ever or in the last 2 years, I think everyone has made a vast improvement with this SEE committee information – advise your children when learning to operate your boat. We can all do better and have better etiquette. • Curt Halbakken – Can you as a board ask the lake association to reinstate the SEE Committee? • Justin Johnson - Can you as a board tell us how you are going to go forward with the motion to table this for 2 years – where does the board go from here? But the intent of the board to go forward? • Steve Lindow – It's good to volunteer to talk to someone and follow the SEE information, but when you try to talk to someone and it turns into something different to try to educate them to something different. It's an opinion and it's he said she said. You can have a regulation and easily see on the map where WB should and shouldn't be. Not open for discussion. • Matt Hanson – That map is an opinion and it's based on 500 ft. I'm not going to follow something that is based on someone's opinion.
Adjourn	Meeting adjourned at 11:05

Tim Holzkamm

Date

Barb Christiansen

Date

Lynn Lindow

Date

Karen Hefner /Clerk

Date