

## Planning Commission Committee Minutes 5/5/26

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM May 5, 2026

Attendance:

Committee Members: Rolf Christiansen, Lynn Lindow, Carol Peterson, Jesse Krasean, John La Fond

Visitors: Tim Holzkam, Steve Lindow

Lynn reminded all that this committee was formed at the request of the town board, which in turn was reacting to a resolution that was passed at the township's annual meeting requesting that a committee be set up to review the possibility of regulating wake boats on Bad Medicine Lake.

Discussion centered on the following:

- Need to educate property owners and boaters about the issues of wake boats.
- Need to create, distribute and analyze results of a survey of the property owners to determine the need and desire for regulation of wake boats.
- Need to follow the science, not emotions. Our primary interests are the water quality, shoreline damage, fish habitat, safety, and the ability of everyone to use and enjoy the lake(s)
- The intent of any regulations is not to ban wake boats.
- Any regulations would not likely take place this boating season
- This committee does not have the authority to impose regulations. The town board must approve any regulations and there is a process after, including DNR approval and county board approval before any regulations would go into effect.
- Other lakes working on this issue include Pickerel, Big Sugarbush and Fox. Caribou Lake has established an ordinance already.

Our first major emphasis will be on the creation of a survey to determine the need and desire for wake boating regulation. To that end Lynn will create a draft survey and distribute to the committee members for input and changes.

Actions Taken:

- Election of Chairperson and Secretary
  - Rolf Christiansen elected as chairperson and John La Fond elected as secretary. Votes were unanimous.
- Unanimously recommended that Forest Township post on their website the following documents:
  - MN COLA Position Statement – Enhanced Wake Activities

- MN Department of Natural Resources document titled “Initiating local surface use zoning”
- Map titled “Bad Medicine Lake Suggested Wakesurfing Area”
- Link to the MN COLA wake surfing site <https://mncola.org/wake-surfing/>
- Unanimously recommended that Jesse request the Bad Medicine Lake Association post a link to the Forest Township website to facilitate access to the above posted documents.

Next meeting scheduled for June 1, 6:30 PM at the Forest Township Town Hall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Lynn, seconded by John at 7:50PM. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by John La Fond