Planning Commission Minutes 8/3/26 **Final**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM August 3, 2026

Attendance:

Committee Members: Rolf Christiansen, Lynn Lindow(Forest Township Supervisor), Carol Peterson, John La Fond

Absent: Jesse Krasean

Visitors: Tim Holzkamm, Steve Lindow, Barb Christiansen, Bill Spartz, Bob Becklund

Motion to approve the July 20, 2026 Minutes was made by Carol P., seconded by Lynn L. Motion was approved.

The agenda, the July 20 Minutes, Wake Boat Survey results and comments were available to visitors.

Motion to Approve the agenda (modified to put Public Comments ahead of Discussion of Steps if Regulation moves forward and to correct the date on Item 2) by John L., seconded by Lynn L. Motion was approved.

Reviewed the results of the Wake Boat Survey which were available for the Committee and visitors as well as all the comments as typed up by Barb Christianson (Thanks!) and sorted by question by Lynn L. (Thanks also!) The results are in spreadsheet form and, along with the comments will be posted to the Forest Township website. It was noted that the comments will be updated to include "sic" to indicate that the "preceding words have been reproduced exactly as in the original source, including any errors or unconventional usages" when we have made the best effort to interpret hand written comments that may have spelling errors or have been difficult to put in context. Individuals' names have also been X'd out. The original surveys with comments will be retained.

Significant findings from the survey included:

130 total surveys returned out of 223 total sent out. This is a 58% return rate. A good return rate for a mailed survey is 30-40% and an excellent return rate is 50%+. We have an excellent return rate.

Question 1 concerning whether the respondent was a permanent or seasonal resident or which if any Forest Township lakes the respondent was on:

Permanent Resident: 26%

Seasonal resident: 74%

Bass Lake = 7

Big Basswood Lake = 4

Bad Medicine Lake = 110

No Lake indicated = 9

Question 3: “Do you think any of the watercraft identified below impact your shoreline, the ecological system of the lake or personal safety?” Ratings were on a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being “No Impact” and 5 being “Major Impact”.

Of the five watercraft options (non-motorized boat, fishing boat, pontoons, personal watercraft, runabouts, wake boats) only wake boats had a significant response (63%) of “Major Impact”. All others were rated between 1% and 4% as having a “Major Impact”.

Question 4: “Have you observed any damage to property or shoreline or felt a threat to your personal safety caused by boat wakes?

51% of respondents (based on 130 surveys received) selected the “Shoreline Erosion” option, 44% selected the “Personal Safety” option , 28% selected the "Docks” option, 18% selected the "Boat Lifts" option, and 18% selected the % “No Damage” option.

Question 7: Would you support regulations concerning the use of wake boats?”

75% of the 125 who responded to this question answered “Yes” and 25% answered “No”.

Question 8: “Should those regulations apply to all lakes in Forest Township or be exclusive to Bad Medicine Lake?”

70% of the 97 responding to this question answered “Township Wide” and 30% answered “Bad Medicine Lake Only”.

Motion that we recommend the Town Board post the Comments and Survey Results by John and seconded by Lynn was approved.

After further discussion and suggestions from the floor this motion was later in favor of the following.

John moved that the Survey Results and Comments be posted immediately to the Forest Township website after adding percentages to the results pages and amendments were made to the comments as discussed above. Seconded by Carol P. Motion was approved.

The intent is to get the information available to the public as quickly as possible.

A question was asked by Barb Cristiansen: What do we do if we receive a survey response after the July 20 deadline? It was decided to keep the surveys, but not include them in the results.

John moved that we put on the Forest Township website links to all the studies, both pro and con, regarding wake boats as well as any critiques of those various studies. This will give everyone access for themselves to as much information concerning wake boat impacts as they wish to pursue. Motion was seconded by Carol P. Motion was approved. Tim H. and Lynn L. will work on this.

Discussion ensued regarding Agenda Item 5: "Discuss what steps come next **if** the Board decides to move forward with regulation(s)"

- Costs to date are a maximum of approximately $1,285 broken down as follows:
    - Survey mailing and preparation costs $375
    - Meetings at $50 per committee participant per meeting: $850. It was noted that at least 2 members do not plan to accept payment, thereby reducing the cost to the township.
- Future cost considerations include:
    - Mileage for a meeting with County Commissions in Detroit Lakes: $60
    - Further Planning Committee meetings at $250 per meeting: $?
    - Printing for copies for meetings and Public Hearing(s): $?
    - Mailing costs such as registered mail to the DNR: $?
    - Potential Litigation: $?
- Estimated Timeframe Tim H. agreed to put together a "Dateline and Process" worksheet for discussion at the next Forest Township meeting (August 10, 2026). This would include items completed to date as well as future "to do" items.
- Investigation of various studies: Decided to post all studies we know of thus far to the Forest Township website. See motion by John L. above. We will all have to weigh the value of the various studies and critiques as best we can.
- Discussed alternatives to Regulation that the Town Board may consider.

Next meeting was not scheduled pending determining the availability of all committee members.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by John, seconded by Lynn at approximately 8:00 PM. Unanimous vote to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted by John La Fond

Planning Commission Minutes 10/13/26 **Addendum to 8/3/26 Minutes**

Meeting called to order at 6:15 PM October 13, 2026

Attendance:

Committee Members: Jesse Krasean, Rolf Christiansen, Lynn Lindow(Forest Township Supervisor), Carol Peterson, John La Fond

Visitors: Barb Christiansen

Motion to approve the August 3, 2026 Minutes was made by John L., seconded by Lynn L. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion to adjuourn the meeting made by Carol P., seconded by Lynn L. Motion passed unanimously.