



Park Township Board of Trustees

March 11, 2021

5:00 pm via Zoom

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

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(Please turn off or set to “silent” mode all cell phones and other electronic devices.)

1. **Call to order**
2. **Invocation**
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Approval of Agenda** (Additions to or Deletions from Agenda)
5. **Public Comment** (This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board and to make any appropriate comments. Please limit your comments to 2 – 3 minutes per person.)
6. **Public Hearing**
 - a. Requesting DNR to study permanent no wake restrictions
7. **Public Comment** (This is an opportunity for the public to address the Board and to make any appropriate comments. Please limit your comments to 2 – 3 minutes per person.)
8. **Board Comments**
9. **Adjourn**

*NOTE: Public comment may be accepted at the time the Board is considering agenda items marked with *



Park Township

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PRESS RELEASE

Date: March 5, 2021

Re: Lake Macatawa no wake restrictions

Under the current Temporary Local Water Craft Control law passed last year by the Michigan State Legislature and signed by the Governor, specific no wake restrictions were imposed on Lake Macatawa due to safety issues caused by historically high water. While the water has receded, levels are still historically high. As a precaution, Park Township will be calling a special public hearing and deliberating on whether to extend last year's temporary slow / no-wake restrictions into the 2021 boating season.

In order to request this extension by law, Park Township must petition the Department of Natural Resources for a permanent water control. Following the Department of Natural Resources investigation and public hearing, the Township can then pass a resolution requesting the extension of the temporary water control measures.

A special meeting and public hearing have been called for this Thursday, March 11 at 5:00 pm to hear comments from the public. Following the public hearing, the Board will deliberate on a resolution at our normally scheduled meeting (March 11th at 6:30 p.m.) requesting a permanent water control measure on Park Townships portion of Lake Macatawa. This resolution must be approved to request an extension of last year's temporary no-wake restrictions. The specific request to extend the temporary slow / no-Wake restriction is likely to occur in May.

Specifically, the Township Board will consider a request to the DNR for a permanent control mechanism; such that when water levels on Lake Macatawa reach a specified level, more stringent local watercraft controls apply; and when the water levels recede below that level, less stringent local watercraft controls apply.

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FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

(This resolution will be acted upon at the regular Board of Trustees meeting.)

**PARK TOWNSHIP BOARD
COUNTY OF OTTAWA, STATE OF MICHIGAN
EXCERPTS OF MINUTES**

At a regular meeting of the Park Township Board, Ottawa County, Michigan, held as a hybrid with in-person attendance of some Board members and remote electronic access via Zoom, in accordance with Michigan Emergency Order and the Michigan Open Meetings Act, on the 11th day of March, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., local time.

PRESENT: _____

ABSENT: _____

After certain other matters of business were concluded, the Supervisor stated the next order of business was the consideration of a proposed resolution concerning a request to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to hold a public hearing and investigate the need for special controls to regulate vessels on Lake Macatawa. After discussion, the following resolution was offered by _____ and supported by _____:

RESOLUTION FOR LOCAL WATERCRAFT CONTROL

WHEREAS, in May of 2020, the Park Township Board, along with the Holland City Commission and the Holland Charter Township Board, applied to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for a Temporary Ordinance for regulating the use of vessels on Lake Macatawa, which application was submitted pursuant to 2020 PA 72; and

WHEREAS, 2020 PA 72 provides that a Temporary Ordinance may be extended or renewed in consecutive years only if the political subdivision is going through the process of adopting a proposed special rule under Sections 80110 and 80111, and the public hearing

required under Section 80110(4) of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (1994 PA 451; NREPA), has occurred; and

WHEREAS, the Park Township Board, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan, has become aware that recreational boating and surface water use problems exist and may continue to exist on Lake Macatawa, which was determined by a public hearing as part of a special meeting previously held on March 11, 2021, at the Township Hall and electronically via Zoom, and approved by a majority of the local political subdivision; and

WHEREAS, such recreational boating and surface water use problems pose significant public safety concerns on Lake Macatawa; and

WHEREAS, Act 451 of the Public Acts of 1994, Part 801, as amended, requires that the Department of Natural Resources conduct a public hearing and such investigations as are deemed necessary prior to recommending local watercraft controls on problem waters.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE PARK TOWNSHIP BOARD RESOLVES, that

1. The Township Board requests that the Michigan Department of Natural Resources hold a public hearing to inquire into the need for permanent special controls on Lake Macatawa, Park Township, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan.
2. The Township Board requests the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to investigate the need for, and to conclude that the need is established for, a permanent special watercraft control ordinance for Lake Macatawa, Park Township, County of Ottawa, State of Michigan.
3. The Township Board asks the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to consider preparing and submitting to the Park Township Board for consideration a proposed permanent special watercraft control ordinance that may include a mechanism that would have the local watercraft controls activated based on the public safety issues associated with the elevated water levels, such as a permanent water control ordinance that might provide that when the water levels on Lake Macatawa reach a

certain specified height, then more stringent local watercraft controls will apply; and when the water levels recede below that certain specified height, then different less stringent local watercraft controls will apply.

YES: _____

NO: _____

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED

Date

Skip Keeter, Township Clerk

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF OTTAWA)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Park Township, Ottawa County, Michigan, certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Township Board at a regular meeting held on March 11, 2021, the original of which is on file in my office. Public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in compliance with 1976 PA 267, as amended, including in the case of a special or rescheduled meeting, notice by posting at least eighteen (18) hours prior to the time set for the meeting, and and was held in compliance with 1976 PA 267, as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereto affixed my official signature this 11th day of March, 2021.

Skip Keeter, Clerk
Park Township