



Town of Wagner



W2379 County Road JJ, Wausaukee, WI 54177
(715) 732-6008

MEETING MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING

Tuesday, March 8th, 2022 6:00 pm

Town of Wagner Town Hall, W2379 County Road JJ, Wausaukee

Attendance: Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr., Supervisors Mollie Arthur and Ed Delfosse, Clerk Cassie Brown, Treasurer Margo Renikow and 28 members of the public.

1. **Call to order – attendance sign in. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. at 5:57PM.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance was said.**
3. **Approve agenda. Motion to approve Arthur/Delfosse.**
4. **Action Items, action if any:**
 - a. **Discuss/consider public input regarding no wake hours on Lake Mary. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated that in the past a Town resolution was made to allow a sign to be placed on Lake Mary with no wake hours. This sign was later changed by the Lake Association. Middle Inlet was going to try and create an ordinance but it was never done. This issue was going to be re-evaluated after the fish died last summer, but it was postponed due to COVID concerns.**
5. **Public input – Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.**
 - a. **Speaker 1 - Disagrees with problems arising from Lake Association deciding hours of 6PM-10AM. Questioned the purpose of the meeting. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated it was to receive public input to aid in the Board's decision on an ordinance. Speaker also stated that he would be fine with 5PM-10AM as well.**
 - b. **Speaker 2 - Questioned why meetings are coming up again. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated it was due to the fish dying last summer. Speaker stated she has been coming to this lake for years and feels 4PM is too early and prefers sun down to sun up. 6PM-10AM is also fine. Speaker questioned who would determine the hours and how the determination would be made. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated the Town Board determines the hours with input from the public meeting. The Board's job is to make decisions based on what is best for the**



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Town of Wagner. Speaker questioned what the options were if they don't agree with the Board's decision. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated that residents can vote for a different Board if they do not feel the current administration is a good representation of the Town.

- c. Speaker 3 – Stated he is the president of Lake Association and is looking out for the best interest of the Association. He does think the issues started when the hours became 6PM-10AM because it caused a divide within the Lake Association. This has become an argument at most current meetings and he feels the only way this will end is if the Town Board creates an ordinance. Once the ordinance is in place the Lake Association can begin to heal and move on to other issues. Personal choice would be 5PM-10AM.**
- d. Speaker 4 – Stated he was a representative of the Wagner Sportsman's Club. Part of the club's mission is conservation which is important in relation to the no wake hours. The club is supporting the hours of 4PM-10AM, and received over 40 signatures in a petition supporting the same hours. He provided a document summarizing multiple DNR studies in several states regarding water temperature, movement of the water, destruction of habitat and the importance of no wake hours to these issues.**
- e. Speaker 5 – Stated she had also sent an email and does not feel there are any issues with 6PM as most people cooperate. It is still warm at 5PM and the extra hour for activities is necessary. She stated she had information stating the fish dying was a result of extremely warm temperatures that summer, and this did not happen in prior years with high levels of boating activities. She would like the hours to stay from sunset to sunrise or 6PM-10AM.**
- f. Speaker 6 – Stated there is a public trust doctrine that gives equal rights to all residents on WI bodies of water. The entire public should be involved in this decision, and the Lake Association does not have the authority to create an ordinance. He appreciates the Town's time to address the ordinance and hopes the decision will preserve the lake for all water activities. In favor of 6 wake hours.**



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- g. Speaker 7 – Stated she has been on the lake for 10 years and part of the Lake Association for the full time. Feels there has been no issue and everybody has been respectful. They understand it is a gentleman’s agreement and cannot be enforced. She stated the DNR could not determine the exact cause of the fish dying. The busiest day of the week is Saturday and largest holiday is July 4th. There is not an issue with a large volume of wake activities. 4PM in July and August average water temperatures of 80 degrees and it is too hot for fishing. She questioned who enforces the ordinance and stated it would cause more issues of people trying to turn each other in for violation.**
- h. Speaker 8 – Stated the Lake Association voted for 6PM-10PM overwhelmingly at the last meeting and he is supporting these hours. There are 365 days a year to fish and maybe 30 days in the Summer for water activities.**
- i. Speaker 9 - Stated water activities are really only enjoyed from June to August and supports the hours of 6PM-10AM.**
- j. Speaker 10 – Stated he has been using lake for 50 years and is a multi-activity user. Agrees that Saturdays are the busiest day of the week and it is only three months out of the year. State residents follow state law of sunset to sunrise. Sign states tubers are to be pulled counterclockwise. Is this also going to be addressed and where does the Board draw the line.**
- k. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated he is disappointed in the lack of respect for the lake. He clarified that this is not an argument between fishers and boaters. This became a concern after the fish dying last summer, and the lake should be preserved for future generations. He has been fishing on this lake for 65 years and knows it will never be what it used to be, but would like to keep it as is currently. One gallon of gas from a boat creates 114,100 BTUs of heat and it is disbursed on the water. You cannot say that this does not contribute to increased temperatures in the water. Another lake close by did not have fish die on the same day. This is on the agenda for the monthly Board meeting, but there is a lot of discussion to consider.**
- l. Speaker 11 – Questioned what the suggestions were in correspondence received from people who could not attend the meeting. Chairperson Steve Renikow Sr. stated it was similar to**



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the input at the meeting. Some felt 4PM-10AM was appropriate and some felt it was fine as is.

6. Adjourn. Motion to approve Arthur/Delfosse at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted by Clerk Cassie Brown.