

**VILLAGE OF FRUITPORT  
AGENDA  
MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2021  
PUBLIC HEARING**

**1. Call to Order**

President Roger Vanderstelt called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**2. Roll Call**

Present: Amy Haack, Carl Rothenberger, Bill Overkamp, Roger Vanderstelt and Ann LaCroix  
Absent: Jeff Guiles

**3. Approval of agenda for March 22<sup>ND</sup> Public Hearing**

Motion made by Amy to approve the agenda for the hearing, supported by Carl. With a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

**4. Temporary Local Watercraft Control Application/Review**

President Roger Vanderstelt reviewed the process for the temporary local watercraft control application. He reviewed a diagram showing the request to change the location of the no wake buoys from the current location near Pine Street to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**5. Public Comments (Public Comments limited to 3 minutes each)**

Ann LaCroix, the Clerk read 4 letters that were received from residents. Ann then advised that since this is a teleconference call, she would call out phone numbers individually to allow for comment or no comment. See the attached for letters and comments.

**6. Adjourn**

Motion made by Amy to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm, supported by Bill. With a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ann LaCroix  
Clerk

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

1. Bill Knapp, 368 Lake Street, is in favor of the new location, he has lived on the lake 25 years and advised it is skinny section, small area, dangerous and a safety hazard.
2. Bill Surridge, 351 S. 3<sup>rd</sup>, is in favor of keeping current location, he discussed trouble with skiers having trouble turning around.
3. Dan Vickers, 375 Pine Street, stated his is located where the water opens and most traffic turns around in front of his house, he has had signification damage to his property. He believes the water is receding. Lots of damage to neighbors. It is a known law to stay away from shoreline, but no one obeys it. He thinks the temporary location is warranted.
4. Pat Eddy, 12 Circle Dr, stated the buoys are right in front of his property. He does not think moving them will solve the problem. Most boaters blow past them. Better enforcement would help. We need to make it usable for people that do not have property on the lake. He questioned who is asking for the temporary permit. President Roger Vanderstelt said it was requested by some of the residents. Council person Amy Haack advised that this is a public hearing to gain public input. The council will consider it and vote at the next council meeting.
5. Mark Oldenburg, 270 Pine, said the water level is going down. He is not opposed to moving the buoys but thinks we need more law enforcement in the area.
6. Jeff Winkas, 369 Pine, boaters are speeding and need to slow down for the kayakers. He is in favor of the temporary move of the buoys.
7. Jennifer Williams, 356 Lake, is in favor of moving the buoys but maybe not as far.
8. Don Ipema, 386 Lake Street, Don stated his letter was read by the clerk. He agrees the buoys do not have to go quite so far out, maybe midway or the area policed more. He stated that most bayous have a no wake at the mouth of the bayou.
9. DeVere Bendixen, 300 8<sup>th</sup> Ave, his neighbors dock ripped off. He is strongly in favor of at least a temporary move of the buoys. Other bayous have no wake sings and another line of buoys, so boaters see them.
10. Pam Moelker, 390 Lake Street, thinks this is an invitation for boaters to congregate.

To: Village Of Fruitport  
From: Shirley Rennells Baker  
RE: No Wake Zone  
03/15/21

My property at 326 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue has been having severe erosion at my seawall for the last several years. Boats traveling at high speed create waves that hit and go over the dock and seawall, causing damage to my property, boathouse, dock, and irrigation system which is sinking in that area.

In the summer of 2020 in particular, boats speeding by caused the heavy boathouse dock boards to loosen and detach. Some sections floated away. A neighboring property owner had to pay for help to collect these boards and bring them to shore for disposal. Two other dock sections had to be temporarily tied to the boathouse posts to prevent them from floating away also.

When the high water recedes, I will have to pay to remove and replace damaged docking caused by boat operators traveling past my property at high speed.

Broken docking floating in Spring Lake can and will cause severe damage to boats that hit it and more importantly there is a real potential for severe personal injury. Can you imagine what would happen to a skier if they were to hit a piece of docking at high speed?

A "No Wake" sign was placed at the village lot at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue many years ago but is no longer there.

The "No Wake" zone in my area needs to be re-instituted to protect our property, protect boaters' property, and to prevent personal injuries.

Your thorough and careful consideration in this matter is appreciated.

Thank you.

Shirley Rennells Baker  
326 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Fruitport

*June 2013*

March 19, 2021

**Re:** No-wake buoy placement on Spring Lake

To The Village of Fruitport:

The following thoughts are shared based on observations made last spring regarding placement of the no-wake buoys.

The new location of the no-wake buoys is ultimately fine. However, we feel a line of single no wake markers should also be placed within sight of each other starting near the Pomona Park launch and ending near the line of markers at the 8<sup>th</sup> street location.

The new proposed placement was tried early in the season last year without the additional markers. This worked fine for boat traffic approaching from the south. But, it didn't work well at all for boaters who just launched their boats and headed south as the no-wake markers at the 8<sup>th</sup> Street were not within eye sight soon enough. Boaters would launch, power up and then cut power when the 8<sup>th</sup> Street markers were sighted thus defeating the purpose of the delegated no wake zone.

If our request is unable to be achieved then we would prefer the buoys be placed slightly south of last years location away from narrowest part of the waterway to Spring Lake.

Attached you'll find our thoughts on your diagram where we think additional markers should be placed. We'll try to make the virtual public meeting, but we will be out-of-town, so we want to make sure our recommendations are considered.

Thank You,

Terry & Terri Draeger  
11 Circle Drive  
Fruitport

(616) 402-0189

Enc.

## Comments about Watercraft Control Application

As a lake front property owner, I have seen waves from boat traffic cause damage to docks and shorelines in 2020 and I understand the concerns. The water levels are higher than average, but we continue to see the water levels recede per the Army Core of Engineers (ACE) report on March 12. Currently, Lake Michigan is down 10 inches from last year's level and the ACE is predicting lower spring levels at this time compared to last year.

To my understanding, Spring Lake water levels fluctuate based on the levels of Lake Michigan so the more it continues to go down, the lower the level of Spring Lake.

Moving the buoy locations out will take away a large section of this end of the lake for recreational purposes. Most of the issues seem to occur when boat and PWC owners disobey the 100/200 foot rule when traveling this part of the lake. I have seen boats and PWC's come dangerously close to docks and other boats. I would much rather see additional enforcement between Friday and Sunday evenings when non-residents come out for time on the lake.

I would also remind this hearing that with water levels being down, the ramps in the Grand River near Grand Haven will most likely be open this year so traffic coming out of the Fruitport ramp should also be down reducing local traffic at this end of the lake.

Our request is that the buoys stay at the Pine Street location, additional buoys be placed along the shoreline to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, so boater know how far to stay away from shore and additional enforcement be implemented.

394 Lake Street

Robert and Debra Van Putten

Village of Fruitport, Village Clerk  
45 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Fruitport, MI 49415

Donald R. Ipema  
8337 W. 138<sup>th</sup> Place  
Orland Park, IL ,60463

Re:386 Lake, Fruitport, MI  
Public Hearing: Temporary Local Watercraft Control Application  
March 22,2021

*Certified Mail # 7019 0700 0001*  
*80283597*  
*Express MAIL EJ 572499505*

Dear Village Clerk,

My wife and I are the owners of 386 Lake in Fruitport. We received serious damage to our property as result of the high water over the past two years.

Approximately 2-3 years prior the 'NO WAKE' Buoys were moved significantly further into the bayou which made it much tighter for boat turnarounds (especially with skiers or tubbers). It also created an unsafe condition for travel from the boat launch due to boats cutting right across the boat direction of boats leaving the boat launch. At the time I had looked as to who to contact to either place buoy's where they had previously been or to place my own buoy just off the end of my dock to remind boaters of 'NO WAKE' for 200 ft from the dock. I was informed that neither option would be allowed.

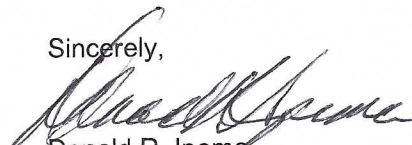
At the end of June 2019, our dock was destroyed by high water and particularly because of the nice weather which brought many recreational boaters, skiers, and PWC to Spring Lake. With high water over the top of many docks as well as boaters having an unfamiliarity of area water, boats were doing turnarounds in the area creating extra severe wake and often coming within 200 feet of shoreline or existing docks, causing serious safety issues. I have included pictures of my waterfront and dock.

Although the water now appears to be a few inches lower than last year, I am still left with damage to the shoreline, a destroyed dock and boatlift. Repair and Replacement damage has been estimated to approximately \$65,000.00.

The temporary move of buoy's would be important to schedule completion of property repair. If possible, continue with a permanent application to permanently move buoys either to the new proposed location or at least midway between current and proposed location. That entire area (both sides of lake) receives too much damage from boat wake to allow the buoys to be moved back.

Thank You for your attention and efforts on this matter.

Sincerely,



Donald R. Ipema

Attachments: Pictures