

CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP
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A Public Hearing of the Clearwater Township Board was called to order at 6:38 p.m. on February 17, 2016 by Supervisor Niederstadt with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call of board members: Larry Niederstadt, present; Grace Beland, present; Dwight Seaman, present; Barb Crambell, present; Kathy Eldridge, present. Also present, 15 guests.

Purpose of the Hearing: Consider a request for Rule Modification from the Department of Natural Resources. The request is to extend the existing 300 foot "Slow-No Wake" distance from the mouth of the Torch River on the south end of Torch Lake to a minimum of 900 feet.

Public Comment:

Norm Neuschwander, a resident on Crystal Beach Rd. supports the request. He feels the area under consideration is very unsafe, and feels moving the buoys out to 900' makes sense. It would slow the boat traffic down in that area and make it safer due to jet skis jumping the wakes. It would make it safer for the boaters, the jet skiers, and the people on the sandbar. Feels it is a great idea and should have been done long ago.

Sue Kelly, a resident on Torch Bridge Court supports the request to extend the buoys to the 900' mark. She enjoys kayaking and states it is very dangerous in that area due to the large wakes. It is a safety hazard. It would eliminate some of the wakes and make it a safer and easier passage. Because of all the congestion on the sandbar, it would make the area safer for everyone.

Greg Payne initiated the request for the revision under specific rules from the DNR. Milton Township is submitting the same request and held their public hearing a week ago. The DNR reserves the right to change the "No-Wake Zone" to 900' and they will evaluate the request. At this time they will not enforce anything except the 300' rule. In addition to the safety concerns, he feels this request would reduce the amount of environment impact on the shoreline from the large waves.

No additional public comment.

Supervisor Niederstadt read the proposed resolution (hereby attached). It was moved by Niederstadt and seconded by Seaman to accept Resolution #1 of 2016 for a Rule Modification from the Department of Natural Resources. Vote on Resolution: 5 in favor; 0 opposed.

Public Comment: None

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Pat Gray, Deputy Clerk