

City of Bayfield

Harbor Commission

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April 29, 2022

Greetings Bayfield Residents & Seasonal Boaters,

Historically, there would be boats in the Apostle Islands Marina by now, but this morning presented another cold day & perhaps 30% of the harbor was still iced in, including the well. Nevertheless, it's been an eventful winter & I wish to provide updates on items of interest.

In April, the Bayfield Harbor Commission (B.H.C.) entered into a Berth Agreement with Viking Expedition Ltd, a subsidiary of Viking Cruises, to grant ingress & egress of their tender at the Northwest end of the Bayfield City Dock. The new cruise ship, Viking Octantis, can accommodate about 380 passengers with 200 crew. Octantis will remain offshore while guests enjoy a visit to Bayfield. Passengers will spend a morning exploring the rich history of Wisconsin's Red Cliff Band, browse downtown Bayfield, charter sailboats, visit the sea caves at Devil's Island, tour the orchards, or experience birding at the Great Lakes Visitor Center. Viking Octantis will make seven one-day visits on Tuesdays in 2022 between May and September. Viking Expedition Ltd paid \$25,000 for initial expenses and will pay \$10,000 per visit for \$95,000. These much-needed revenues are allocated exclusively to the City dock & harbor infrastructure.

The Bayfield Harbor Breakwater project, in full swing over the winter, nears completion. Recent record high water levels and aging crib structure necessitated improvements. "E" and "A" docks will have reinforced, poured concrete surfaces. The cold spring has delayed the lifting of road bans, prohibiting concrete delivery. Once road bans lift:

- "E" Dock is scheduled to be poured 5/16/2022 to 05/18/2022
- "A" Dock is scheduled to be poured 5/23/2022 to 5/25/2022.
- Final electrical & Plumbing hookups are expected to begin May 26th
- Final site cleanup on or about May 30th.

Bill Peterson is kindly working to accommodate boaters during the Spring launch. The completed work will be beautiful and functional but expensive. Just a few years ago, the initial project was estimated to cost \$2,000,000. The final cost will be close to \$4,600,000. Grants from the Wisconsin Harbor Assistance Program & Army Corp of Engineers will cover a significant portion. Still, the City of Bayfield will incur a significant general obligation note to cover the difference. The B.H.C. works to balance the cost of maintaining infrastructure, provide equity to taxpayers, and keep prices reasonable for commercial & recreational boaters alike.

Over a year ago, the B.H.C. learned Bill & Doreen Peterson listed their business, B.D. Marine for sale with SimplyMarinas.com. B.D. Marine holds a lease to manage the City-owned Apostle Islands Marina through 2023. Given this, the B.H.C. is considering management models that continue to provide value to A.I.M. customers. But management models must also provide revenue for future infrastructure projects of the Bayfield Harbor and a return on investment to the City of Bayfield. Proposed management models will be announced in 2022 and will be open for public comment.

Bayfield Harbor Commission meetings are held on the first Monday of each month and are open to the public. Please visit the City of Bayfield website, www.cityofbayfield.com, for more information.

Very warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Dougherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Ted Dougherty

Bayfield Harbor Commission Chair

Bayfield City Council

Established in 1913.

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