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**ST JAMES TOWNSHIP**

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# PRESS RELEASE

October 15, 2019

## **ST JAMES TOWNSHIP NEW OWNER OF BEAVER ISLAND MARINA**

St James Township is now the owner of the Beaver Island Marina Property thanks to a generous gift from the JA Woollam Foundation. The gift is the result of discussions between the Anderson Family, former owners of Beaver Island Marina, and JA Woollam Foundation (JAWF) to purchase the marina property by the foundation for donation to St James Township. The acquisition of the property for transfer to the township has been part of the public discourse for well over a year; Mr. John Woollam first presented the idea in a public meeting in February of 2018. The transaction is now complete; as of October 14, 2019, the property now belongs to St James Township. The complex transaction included four entities: JAW Foundation, Anderson Family, St James Township and Little Traverse Conservancy.

The Beaver Island Marina, which will now be run as part of the township's existing municipal dock has approximately 50 slips, a boat launch ramp, gasoline and diesel fuel sales, a bath house, and a small shop. The multi-faceted business covers six lots on the northern side of the harbor. The former owners have 120 days in which to remove all but marina rec:\users\st. james township\documents\organizational\communications\press release - october 15.2019 marina.docxlated items from the property. The township will be the sole operator of the marina and expects to be open for business for the 2020 boating season. The conservation easement, which is part of the gifting agreement, allows SJT to operate the marina, provide for boat fuel sales, opens up land for public access to greenspace and boat launch, including area for kayak launch, creates greenspace on both sides of the road and adds additional boat trailer parking and limits car parking on harbor side of road to specific areas thus enhancing the view.

The project meets ongoing goals and objectives of the township; Increase and Improve Accessibility to Lake Michigan, Maximize Recreational Opportunities Using Existing Assets and Natural Resources, Make the Island's Recreational Assets more Easily Accessible to its Own Citizens. Specifically, the project allows the township to meet important objectives: Public Boat Ramp/Launch in Harbor, Designate Areas for Public Parking for Boaters, Seasonal Dock Opportunity for year-round and seasonal property owners, Non-boater Access to Improved Green Space and Improvement of Harbor View and Tidiness of Harbor Area.

The township has transition plans with Adam Anderson and with JAW Foundation to complete the many steps necessary to move the project forward. The township is extremely grateful to the JAW Foundation for its commitment and persistence to this project. John Woollam is a longtime supporter of Beaver Island and his motivation for suggesting the project in the first place was to ensure the attractiveness of the harbor and its unspoiled shorelines and charming waterfront. In exchange for the gift to the township, the JAWF wishes for an uncluttered, waterfront, functional yet attractive from both the water and the shoreline. The township looks forward to taking the steps necessary to meet John Woollam's wishes and the best interest of the Island!