

Contact:
Kitty McNamara
St James Township
Phone: (231) 448-2014
mcnamara.stjamestwp.bi@gmail.com

PO Box 85
Beaver Island MI 49782
www.stjamestwp.org

ST JAMES TOWNSHIP

PRESS RELEASE

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IT'S OFFICIAL - TOWNSHIP RECEIVES KEYS TO MARINA BUILDINGS

At 10:00 am on February 13, 2020 Adam Anderson, representative of Anderson Marina, presented St James Township Supervisor Kathleen McNamara with keys to the marina buildings. The key exchange and transfer of ownership was a deal at least two years in the making. In February 2018, boater, conservationist, and Beaver Island enthusiast, John Woollam, presented the Beaver Island community and St James Township with a Beaver Island Marina Purchase Proposal Draft Concept. In very general terms, the proposal suggested that the JA Woollam Foundation buy the Anderson Marina and gift it to the township for use as either a profitable marina or a waterfront park.

After two years of discussion, public meetings, research and negotiation, the township is well on its way to operating the new marina: Beaver Island Municipal 'Marina North'. The marina will be operated as one with the township's existing Municipal Marina, now referred to as 'Marina South'. Andersons and the JAW Foundation signed final documents in October 2019, and Andersons were allowed 120 days in which to vacate the property and remove all equipment not required to run the marina. The Andersons met that requirement to the tee and the property is now cleaned up, is free of cars and equipment and is under the exclusive management of St James Township.

Since the transaction was finalized in October 2019, the following items have been completed on the property: apartment building moved, bubblers installed, agreement to remove barge and crane reached, old fuel dispensing equipment removed for replacement, new siding for pole barn received. In anticipation of a mid-June 2020 opening, these improvements will be completed: new siding on pole barn, raise existing docks because of high water, replace and relocate fuel dispenser to sell diesel and recreational fuel (no automotive fuel) and complete some basic landscaping. Much of this work is also being funded by the JA Woollam Foundation.

The ratio of transient slips to seasonal slips will remain similar to the past. Rates for seasonal boaters will be very similar to past rates and 2019 seasonal customers will be contacted to see if they wish to return. Transient slips will be booked on the DNR reservation system in the same way as the township's other municipal dock. The township recently took action to support grant writing aimed at future replacement of the aging docks with a floatation docking system. St James Township officials are extremely grateful to John Woollam and his foundation for making this gift a reality. It is a gift that will provide dividends to the Beaver Island community long into the future.



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