

NOTICE

ST. JAMES TOWNSHIP PUBLIC HEARING

Slow – No-Wake Zone Font Lake

St. James Township will conduct a Public Hearing on **September 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm at the St. James Township Hall located at 37735 Michigan Ave**, on Beaver Island. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain public comment and suggestions regarding the possible designation of Font Lake as a State of Michigan SLOW – NO WAKE ZONE.

"Slow-No Wake" means operation of a watercraft at the slowest possible speed necessary to maintain steerage, but in no case greater than five miles per hour. Simply put in the USCG's terms is "as slow as possible and still have control of your vessel." MIDNR Watercraft Safety Handbook.

Font Lake is extremely shallow, has many very shallow unmarked areas, and several moving/floating plant mat islands on the surface of the lake. Therefore, the Townships feel that for the safety of landowners, island users and visitors - that the "Slow-No Wake Zone" is a good protective measure - both for the safety of citizens and for the safety of our loons and other waterfowl that use the lake for breeding, nesting and feeding. The public use boat launch area will remain unchanged.

The process used is as per Public Act 451 of 1994, Part 801, Marine Safety Sections: 324.80110, 324,80111, 324,80112. After public hearing, both St. James Township and Peaine Township will need to pass a resolution asking the State of Michigan DNR Law Enforcement Division to review and investigate the proposal, prepare a Departmental Preliminary Report and schedule a public hearing in the vicinity of the water body to gather public input on the preliminary report. Within 90 days of following the public hearing, if the department determines there is a need for special rules for the water body, the department shall propose a local ordinance or appropriate changes to local ordinance.

Copies of the Public Act 451 Rules can be viewed at:

- Beaver Island District Library – Circulation Desk
- St. James Township website at: www.stjamestownship.org under News and Announcements
- St. James Government office at 37830 King's Highway
- St. James Township Clerk by appointment – Julie Gillespie at 231 448-2761

You may attend the public hearing in person, or by representative, or by forwarding comments in writing or email at least 48 hours prior to the hearing to Kitty McNamara, Township Supervisor, P.O. Box 85, Beaver Island, MI 49782 or email: mcnamara.stjamestownship.bi@gmail.com.