

Minutes:
Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Regular Meeting of February 11, 2015

Watersmeet High School Library

- 1) Meeting called to order by Chairman Roy D'Antonio at 6:30 PM.
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance was given.
- 3) **Roll Call:** Members Present: Chairman Roy D'Antonio, Secretary John Neumann, Township Board Liaison-Rich Henriksen, Pete Peterson, Jeff Wasson, John Cestkowski, Larry Potter, Dave Sherrill and Jeff Zelinski were present. Several community members were also present.
- 4) **Approval of Agenda/Changes:** Dave Sherrill requested 2 additions be made to the agenda which was a discussion on the Blue Bus and discussion on the Recreation Plan. Dave Sherrill made the motion to accept the agenda with additions, second by John Cestkowski. Unanimous yes vote to approve revised agenda.
- 5) **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Pete Peterson to accept minutes of Regular PC meeting of January 14th as written, second by Jeff Wasson. Unanimous yes vote.
- 6) **Public Hearing-Special Use Permit:** Motion made by Dave Sherrill and second by Pete Peterson to leave Regular Meeting and move into Public Hearing. Unanimous yes vote. Roy opened the Public Hearing for comments. Dave Neumann commented that he had a letter from Whitewater Associates that stated the water has been tested and approved for Jeff Nimz who is applying for a Special Use Permit on Lac Vieux Desert Lake. Four letters were sent to owners of adjacent properties informing them of the Public Hearing. One response was received back from Robert Schindelholz requesting that he would like the property lines posted with no trespassing signs if the Special Use Permit is approved. Julie Mathiesen commented that she would like to see something put into the Ordinance to strike a balance between commercial and residential properties on the lakes. She considers rentals commercial. Mike Rogers commented that Lac Vieux Desert is a border lake and the Wisconsin side has no restrictions of use. Julie also added that the owner should have a local contact person if problems should come up with the renters if approved. With no more comments John Cestkowski made the motion to move out of the Public Hearing, second by Jeff Wasson. Unanimous yes vote.
- 7) **Discuss and Vote on Jeff Nimz Special Use Permit Request.** Jeff Zelinski made a motion to approve Special Use Permit, second by Pete Peterson. After a discussion, several stipulations were required for the Special Use Permit to be approved. These additional requirements will be placed in the permit; no more than 8 people at a time staying in rental, that the property lines will be posted, aquatic invasive species nuisance information will be posted in the rental, and that there is a local contact person available if there is a problem with the rental. Unanimous yes vote.
- 8) **Zoning Administration Report:** David Neumann stated that he had only one request this last month. He said he did not approve the request for a dock because it would violate our Ordinance as well as DEQ requirements. Dave also presented a list of recommendations he

would like to see added to the Ordinance concerning Special Use Permits for Short Term Rentals. After much discussion the following requirements from the list were adopted but will not require changes to the Ordinance: 1) A report from the Michigan Health Dept. 2) The report must include the number of individuals the septic system was designed to support. 3) Property boundaries will be posted. 4) Aquatic Invasive Species information will be available in the rental. A motion to approve the requirements in the Special Use Permit was made by Dave Sherrill, second by Pete Peterson. Unanimous yes vote. There was a list of classifications for Special Use Permits also provided by Dave Neumann that created a lengthy discussion about fees for these classifications. We will discuss this again at the next meeting after we have some time to think about it.

- 9) **Master Plan Update/Survey:** Dave Sherrill stated that the Master Plan is mostly complete and will be ready in March. He has reviewed all of our goals and objectives in the document to insure everything we discussed was included. A request will be sent to the Township Board for money to send out the Survey.
- 10) **2015 Planning Commission Objectives:** Roy thought we should have some goals for the year. Finishing the Rec. Plan should be one of the goals.
- 11) **Blue Bus Discussion:** Dave Sherrill requested that we form a task force as discussed at our last meeting to explore ways of getting better use of the Blue Bus Service. Jeff Zelinski volunteered to be on this task force with community member Kathy Stupak-Thrall.
- 12) **Recreation Plan Discussion:** We will schedule more special meetings this year to go through the Rec. Plan. Rich will contact previous organizations involved to see if they want to be included in developing the Plan.
- 13) **Public Comments:** No public comments.
- 14) **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Pete Peterson, second by John Cestkowski.
Unanimous yes vote. 8:30 PM

Respectfully submitted by, *John Neumann* – Planning Commission Secretary

Approved: March 11, 2015