

Minutes

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Special Meeting of April 29th, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Roy D'Antonio at 6:31 PM.

Members Present: A Roll call found Roy D'Antonio, Jeff Zelinski, Rich Henriksen, Jeff Wasson, Larry Potter, Pete Peterson and John Cestkowski to be in attendance. David Sherrill and Secretary John Neumann, were excused. Rich Henriksen was asked to act as secretary for this meeting to which he agreed. With a quorum present, business could officially occur.

Members of the community present: Julie Mathiesen, Steve Roth the barber and Mike Rogers-Township Supervisor were present.

The Pledge of allegiance was given.

Approve / Modify Agenda: Pete Peterson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented which was supported by Jeff Zelinski. Voice vote: All in favor.

Master Plan Update: Continuing where a previous special meeting left off, the Planning Commission (P-C) resumed discussion at ER1 as summarized in the working document originally authored by member David Sherrill. This document has several headings that allow dispensation of the item by checking the appropriate box: Abandoned, Carryover, Revised and Completed
ER1 "Assemble Natural Resources Inventory" was discussed and determined to be beyond the scope of the P-C both in the P-C's qualifications and influence so therefore should be abandoned. For the same reasons, ER2 through ER7 were voted to be abandoned. ER8 and ER9 were determined to be completed as both the Zoning Ordinance and Township board procedures contain sufficient safeguards to serve the intent. They will remain in the Master Plan for historical reference. Motion by Roy D'Antonio with support from Jeff Wasson. Voice vote: All in favor.
ER10 is to be revised by the removal of the sentence: "Through the use of the Natural Resources Zoning Overly District". ER11, H1, H2 are to be abandoned. H3 is carried over. H4 and H5 are to be abandoned. H6, H7 and H8 are to be carried over.

Other Business: Minimum square footage requirements for dwellings were discussed at some length. John Cestkowski researched and reported the following: Neighboring townships have lower minimums than Watersmeet's L1 and L2 districts with 750 square feet being the number in Marenisco and Bergland on Lake Gogebic. Townships without significant water features have even lower minimums if any.

Public Comments: Supervisor Rogers commented that any calls to the Township Attorney by the Planning Commission need to be run through the Township Offices as billing to the Township starts when Michael Pope picks up the phone.

Steve Roth the barber brought up the Land O' Lakes airport expansion. He was wondering if Watersmeet Township would/could get involved with this project going forward to get existing grant funding to the airport as a "regional" airport. Ultimately a cross-wind runway is envisioned. Upgrading to IFR capability is necessary as well. After discussion, it was agreed that the principals should make a future presentation to the Watersmeet Township Board.

Motion to adjourn at 8:08 PM by Rich Henriksen and supported by John Cestkowski. Voice vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard T. Henriksen - Planning Commission Secretary Pro-tem

Approved: May 14, 2014