

Minutes

Watersmeet Township Planning Commission

Meeting of November 14th, 2012

Meeting called to order by Chairman Bill Neumann at 7:02 PM.

Members Present: Paul Kemppainen, Rich Henriksen, Dennis Snyder, Greg Garlock, Bill Neumann and Fred Reimer were in attendance. Dudley Pierce and Roy D'Antonio were excused. A quorum was present and business could be officially conducted.

Members of the community present: Frank Kuchevar-Township Supervisor and Dave Neumann-Township Zoning Administrator were present. In addition, Craig Hesse, Pat Walsh, Martha Wegner and Julie Mathiesen were in attendance as interested citizens.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Minutes of October 10th Public Hearing: A motion to approve the October Public Hearing minutes as presented was made by Greg Garlock with support from Paul Kemppainen. A voice vote followed with all in favor.

Minutes of October 10th Regular Meeting: A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Paul Kemppainen with support from Greg Garlock. A voice vote followed with all in favor.

Zoning Administrator's Report: David Neumann presented Zoning request for four (4) dwellings, two (2) garages and two (2) docks. One dwelling is a replacement for one that burned to the ground, out on the Cisco Chain. One of the old Forestry buildings is to be moved into the Radcliffe Subdivision so is not technically "new construction". This leaves two new units - expanding the residential inventory of the township.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA): Fred Reimer reported no ZBA activity.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Bill Neumann reported that Sherrie Zoars has scheduled an informational meeting at 6:30 pm Wednesday, Nov. 28 at the school library to present a plan to deliver "high speed internet" (Wi-Fi) to the community through Pasty.net. This could be very informative and represents an interesting solution to bringing access to 21st Century infrastructure to Watersmeet Township residents.

Bill announced that as a result of the election, this would be the last Planning Commission meeting to be chaired by him as he was elected to the Township Board as Trustee. The same is true for secretary Henriksen who was also elected to the board as a trustee. Vice Chairman Paul Kemppainen was elected to the position of Township Treasurer. Therefore it is recommended that the December 2012 meeting be cancelled to allow the new Township Board time to find and appoint three new members to the Planning Commission. Chairman Neumann went on to express his thanks for the hard work and dedication of the Planning Commission members during his tenure as chairman. He wistfully added that "he had an

enjoyable time and the commission accomplished good things for the Township". He thanked Paul Kempainen for being an able vice-chair and commended the secretary for a great job (aw shucks).

Paul Kempainen gave a shout-out to people that might wish to serve on the Planning Commission, to go to the Township Supervisor and express interest in serving. (It is a great experience after all.)

Public Comments: Pat Walsh commented that a building project underway in his neighborhood seems to be adding a restaurant to an existing structure in an L-1 zoned area. He is unaware of the existence of a special use permit which would be required for such an endeavor. Only a standard residential zoning certificate was sought at the outset of this project. This needs to be looked into. Thanks, Pat for the heads-up.

Agenda Changes, Additions: None.

Old Business: None

New Business: Appoint chairman pro-tem.

Chairman Neumann made a motion to tap Mr. Dennis Snyder's previous experience as Planning Commission Chairman and asked him to serve as Chairman *pro-tem*. This was enthusiastically supported by Mr. Henriksen and agreed to by Mr. Snyder. Voice vote: All in favor

Chairman Neumann read the remaining terms of the Planning Commission members carrying forward. The members are appointed to terms from one to three years to ensure continuity.

Dennis Snyder's appointment ends December 2013 as does Fred Reimer's and Dudley Pierce's. Paul Kempainen and Bill Neumann vacate terms ending December 2014. Roy D'Antonio has a term ending December 2014. Rich Henriksen and Greg Garlock have terms expiring next month. Mr. Garlock will need to be reappointed, and the rest need to be retained.

It will be recommended that the new Township Board act on reducing the Planning Commission to seven members from the current nine. We have carried a vacancy for months making a quorum of five difficult to achieve at times. If everyone currently on the Planning Commission after tonight stays on and / or is reappointed as necessary, one new member will need to be found to field seven members (quorum of four) for the future.

Other Business:

None.

Motion to adjourn at 7:22PM by Paul Kempainen with support from Greg Garlock. Voice vote: All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by,

Richard C. Henriksen - Planning Commission Secretary

Approved: 01/09/2013